EAST BAY EXPRESS

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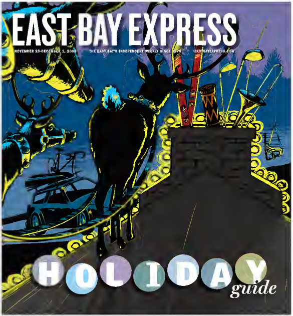

HOLIDAY *guide*

PERFORMANCE
pg 10

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Managing Editor Kathleen Richards
Staff Writer Robert Gammon
Staff Writer/Calendar Editor Rachel Swan
Clubs Editor/Editorial Coordinator Nate Seltenrich
Editorial Interns Alison Alter, Megan Gross, Phil Marshall
Contributors Claudia Bauer, Blair Campbell, Debbie Cheng, Chris Duffey, Raffee Fine, Dave Gil de Rubio, Matthew Green, Andrew Gilbert, Cole Haddon, J.R. Jones, Kirby Haddon, Eric Klein, J. poet, Sonya Revell, Anneli Rufus, Steve Victor Saffilas, Jordan Soja, Matthew Stafford, Kelly Vance, Jay Youngdahl

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Graphic Designers Brian Kelly, Nicholas Wong

Circulation
Circulation Manager Nate Seltenrich
Circulation Assistants Dennis Eastone, Clifton Farrcook

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Publisher Jody Colley
Business Manager Matthew Ayrton
Systems Managers Jesse Rebuldo
Barter King Hal Ready

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Office 510-879-3700 **Fax** 510-879-3794
National Advertising 888-2-RUXTON **Fax** 802-236-4806

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NEWS OPINION

LETTERS

Being Right Isn't Wrong

As director of the documentary *Kimjongilia* cited in the article "Understanding North Korea," I would like to set the record straight. The film received absolutely no funds from either the National Endowment for Democracy or the Citizens' Alliance for Human Rights in North Korea (incorrectly referred to as "Citizen Coalition" in the article.) These groups were thanked in the credits because they were helpful in putting me in touch with defectors. Funding for the film came entirely from private donations and a grant from the Sundance Institute. Neither the many friends and family who loaned or donated money nor Sundance made any editorial demands. Whether the US is at fault in the current Korean peninsula situation or is cynically manipulating the Korean divide to its own ends are both questions that provoke arduous debate but always seem to lead to conclusions that fall within hardened ideological lines. Meanwhile it is difficult to see how US-led UN forces, no matter what they did during the Korean War, can be blamed for the DPRK's practice, sixty years later, of beating, torturing and starving its own children in political prison camps. Likewise, even if American restrictions on trade contributed to NK's Great Famine, which is a dubious assertion, this does not make them responsible for the DPRK's criminal practice of executing people who leave the country looking for food. Joint military exercises by the South Koreans and Americans might explain the North's desire to test nuclear weapons, but it in no way can explain or excuse North Korea's truly dreadful human rights abuses.

Defectors and refugees who have suffered under communist totalitarianism often drift to the right when they escape because the left can seem to be defending the regime from which they have fled. Simply because they identify with the right, however, does not make them wrong in wishing to see brutal dictatorships fall.

NC Heikin, Producer/Director KIMJONGILIA

YOUR WORST NYE EVER?

New Year's Eve is supposed to be a time of revelry — a celebration of the year passed and a welcoming of the one to come. Yet too often, the party can turn sour due to any number of factors: impossible expectations, overindulgence, a bad trip, a cranky lover, having to ride BART — you name it. Dispel the New Year's Eve blues by sharing your worst tale of woe and we'll publish it in our annual NYE guide. Deadline is December 16. E-mail to editor@eastbayexpress.com

Seeking East Bay Biz Listings

In January, the *East Bay Express* is launching a new business publication, *Small Business Monthly*. The section will feature business news and columns, advice for small business owners, and listings of business events and retail sales. To submit press releases, send the pertinent information to editor@eastbayexpress.com. Send retail news to buyourlocal@eastbayexpress.com. Send business events to calendar@eastbayexpress.com.

Chotdah!

Thank you so much Kathleen Wentz, for your unusually informative reporting on Korean politics through the lens of local peace activists. The 1950 war napalmed Korean peasants — and scorched US voices of dissent — before massive civil rights and anti-war movements opened hearts and minds to the credibility gap. From Southeast Asia to Central America, from Iraq to Afghanistan, global warming and beyond, we've grown accustomed to full-throated debate over US policy conducted in our name. Yet too often discussion of Korea remains frozen in a Cold War Ice Age of arrested development. Thankfully, the political debate inside South Korea has grown much more diverse in tandem the country's dance with democracy. The local activists you featured blend their experiences as Korean-American peace instigators with what they learn from counterparts across the Pacific — often over spicy soup that begs to be shared family style. As one whose maternal grandfather immigrat

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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MUMMIES & MEDICINE

Archaeology meets technology in this small-scale exhibi exploring the scientific examination of mummies and providing new insights into the conditions under which the Egyptians lived. Included is the sarcophagus and mummy of Irethorrou, a priest from Egypt around 500 B.C. His mummy has undergone a CT-scan that allows a unique viewing experience of a three-dimensional "fly through" of the body and a forensic reconstruction of his head.

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Tech Talk

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Apple TV 3.0

by Mollie Sullivan, Janus Networks

The Apple TV has been around for a little over two years. For the newcomers, a brief introduction: It connects to your existing TV with an HDMI cable and lets you play movies, television programs available through the iTunes store, music from your iTunes library and display photos. It connects wirelessly to your home computer and automatically syncs to your iTunes library so you can "play your music on the best speakers in the house". Now featuring HD capability, Apple TV 3.0 is better than ever with a more streamlined interface and support for Internet Radio through iTunes.

Unfortunately, it seems Apple is still treating the Apple TV 3.0 as the "hobby" Steve Job called it in 2008. For example, youtube, Hulu, vimeo, netflix and MLB tv are still unavailable.

The Apple TV in 3.0 is an innocuous white box that plugs in to your TV with an HDMI cable, syncs to your home computer's iTunes library and lets you play your digital media through the TV. It is also a virtual storefront for the iTunes media store: you can buy television programs the day after they air as well as HD movies, music and download podcasts. This seems to be the primary emphasis Apple is putting on the 2.5 year old hardware. It's a slick way to play your digital media through your home entertainment system but brings nothing new to the table beyond that.

As for the interface, software version 3.0 addresses a few complaints users had. For instance, 3.0 now puts the main menu at 7 columns wide (music, movies, tv, podcasts, photos, Internet and exit npc) instead of two. It moves the user's media to the top of each column instead of putting the focus on the iTune's store. This feels a little less sales oriented and a little more user focused, which is nice after you've spent a couple hundred dollars on a white box with an HDMI cable. It also supports Genius mixes, iTunes Extras and in a limited capacity iTunes LP along with Itunes Radio.

Genius mixes will be familiar to iTunes users. You choose a song representative of the mixes you want in a playlist, press the "Genius" button on screen and voila! 25 tracks of music in that same vein. iTunes extras also make an appearance in Apple TV 3.0 - these are the fun DVD Extras you never used to get when you downloaded a movie through the iTunes store. This helps Apple keep an edge over disc purchases. iTunes LP though, is another story on the Apple TV, even in version 3.0. Designed to bring back the visual fun of a record with album art, lyrics and liner notes, iTunes LP includes concert footage, photos and more. It's the equivalent of iTunes extras for music - bonus materials that provide some incentive to buy the media instead of downloading it with bit torrent. Unfortunately, the 3.0 interface is a bit clunky with LP. For instance, each new song requires you to go back to the LP interface. Also, recent LP purchases will be incompatible with TV 3.0 while Apple codes and distributes a patch - demonstrating a lack of attention to the product.

It is this uncharacteristic lack of attention that will make users wonder just where Apple is going with the Apple TV. Steve Job's explanation was that it isn't a very commercial piece of hardware – as in, you buy it and then it's over. Additional support yields no additional revenue unless it entices fence sitters to go ahead and buy the unit. Sales of the basic hardware can only last so long before tapering off, though – and thus the problem. For Apple to make this worth their while, they will need to figure out ways to make the Apple TV generate additional revenue beyond its ability to connect to the iTunes store - after all, you can already do that on your home computer. Till then the Apple TV will probably keep receiving updates like 3.0: nice but nothing to write home about.

You can contact the author at press@janusnetworks.com

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ed to Hawaii from what is now South Korea and whose grandmother hailed from what is now North Korea, I say "Chudah! Most excellent! I hope the Obama administration will take advantage of this input and finally end the Korean War and the high cost of militarism on all sides.

Miriam Louie, Oakland

Reunification Costs Too Much

I read with some amusement the article "Understanding North Korea" in your November 4 issue. Blaming the United States seems myopic when one fails to look at the larger picture of global politics. Consider North Korea's neighbors and their motivation to maintain the status quo. The People's Republic of China is happy to have North Korea as is: an almost proxy state that acts as a buffer to South Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United States. A united peninsula would bring no good to China. Japan would not benefit from a united Korea. With their historic animosity, the potential for a nationalistic and nuclear united Korea serves no purpose to Japan. The Russian Federation, like China, is served by a weak North Korea, the closest maritime neighbor to its most important Pacific port, Vladivostok. Neither Russia's economic or military needs would be served by the equivalent of the Berlin Wall falling in Korea. Lastly, South Korea's pokes to look tough but then appease the North is nothing more than a means to maintain status quo. One need to only look at the cost of German unification to understand the reason behind this policy. The economic cost of Korean reunification is unpalatable to most South Korean politicians, business leaders, and trade unions. The questions asked shouldn't be what the United States did on the Korean Peninsula, but what can it do to convince North Korea's neighbors that a united Korea is in their best interest. To this, I am not hopeful...

Scott McNeil, Oakland

We Need Balance

Robert Gammon's ageism ("old hippies" stuck in a "time warp") and easily flung accusations of "NIMBY" in his opinion piece "Activists Try to Block Green Tech in Berkeley" reflect his ignorance, prejudice, and laziness. The issues in West Berkeley facing decision makers are complicated and deserve a better journalistic platform — certainly more than the stereotyping and name-calling by Mr. Gammon. There was applause for speakers voicing concerns with the city's proposed changes in the West Berkeley Plan at the November 4 Planning Commission workshop, but I heard no "ridiculing and heckling of anyone who disagreed with them" from the audience. (Though I did smile to myself once when I heard the phrase "Developers' fair share.") It would be nice to see an intelligent, thoughtful and balanced article in the *Express* about West Berkeley. Speakers brought valid concerns and research based information to the commission for consideration. Gammon ignores that "green" businesses providing living-wage jobs (and better) have been around for decades in West Berkeley. The diverse use here is appealing and worth being preserved. No one is fighting to prevent change or progress — we're speaking up for new development along with the preservation and expansion of what is working. I find it negligent that in the middle of this huge economic downturn brought about by unregulated laissez-faire policies and practices, that anyone would think that opening the doors wide to market forces (green or otherwise) is a good choice. There is a balance to be struck.

Susan Henderson, Berkeley

Strength in Diversity

Setting aside the dubious worth of the University of California's embrace of British Petroleum and biofuels, Gammon's unwillingness to acknowledge the connection between the economic health and substantial financial contribution of the one part of Berkeley that works and its perhaps complex but functional zoning restrictions is peculiar.

Portfolios, biospheres, populations, and societies are stronger, healthier, and have more creative possibilities if they are diverse. The current West Berkeley Plan's restrictions have created perhaps the last neighborhood where art and industry, both large and small, can survive.

If Mayor Bates, his economic development team and a slew of developers want to try some new ideas, I suggest they tackle the empty storefronts littering the downtown and nearby commercial zones currently burdening existing businesses and the tax base. Those of us who live and work in West Berkeley love it here, and yes, we know how to sign referendum petitions.

Carol Denney, Berkeley

Data-Free Ranting

I first read Robert Gammon's account of the Berkeley Planning Commission's November 4 workshop on the *Express* web site: astonishingly, this vitriolic, data-free rant was published under the heading of "News."

As Gammon has it, former hippie environmentalists are fighting Mayor Tom Bates' efforts to turn their West Berkeley neighborhood — "a once-bustling hub of warehouses and industrial manufacturing that has been slowing [sic] decaying for decades" — into "a green-tech corridor" lined with spinoffs from UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. Engaging in "me-first economics," these "fifty and sixty-something" NIMBYs want to limit R & D to six big, vacant industrial sites and otherwise leave the zoning that protects the district's manufacturing, warehousing and artisans. (True.) They're convinced, says Gammon, that "Bates' vision ... will lead to gentrification, overcrowding, and high rents in their neighborhoods." (Also true.)

Gammon concedes that rents will "probably" rise, but that's the price of "ward[ing] off the greatest environmental disaster ever known." If the city keeps the zoning protections for industry and artists, the spinoffs from UCB and the Lab "could end up in the suburbs," increasing sprawl and "making green tech less green."

If West Berkeley were the blighted wasteland of Gammon's imagination, it might make sense to open it up to the high-end, high-rise R & D development sought by Bates and his big bucks associates, who include, along with the UCB administration and the Lab, San Rafael-based Wareham Property Group.

In fact, according to commercial broker C.B. Richard Ellis, in the third quarter of 2009 the vacancy rate for Berkeley's industrial market was only 3 percent. That figure would be low at any time in the midst of the worst recession since the 1930s, it's striking. A low vacancy rate indicates high demand. So much for Gammon's portrait of decay.

Berkeley already has loads of "green-tech." Go to the west end of Heinz Street and gaze upon Wareham's massive Aquatic Park Center. The city just gave Wareham permission to build a 92,000-square-foot biotech facility at 740 Heinz. A recent study by UC Berkeley graduate students reports that the six big vacant sites contain at least 2 million square feet. Assuming that a sizeable portion of that space goes to labs, and that at the same time the city reaffirms its protection for its industrial and artisanal enterprises and jobs, there's plenty enough room for R & D to expand in West Berkeley.

As for Bates' "green tech corridor," Gammon is presumably referring to the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership, an official consortium that includes eight cities stretching from Richmond to San Leandro. The notion that all the spinoffs from UC and the Lab have to be in Berkeley flies against the Corridor's declared mission of sharing the wealth of a new green economy across city boundaries.

That mission, by the way, has nothing to do with preventing sprawl. But perhaps Gammon considers Richmond, San Leandro, Oakland, Emeryville, Alameda, Albany, and El Cerrito to be suburbs of Berkeley. That's about as plausible as his designation of opponents of the Bates/UC/Lab gentrification scenario as aging NIMBYs (and since when do NIMBYs of any age want to live next to factories?).

Zelda Bronstein, Berkeley
Former Chair, Berkeley Planning Commission

Killing the Goose

I wish to comment on the column by Robert Gammon concerning the situation with West Berkeley development issues. Speaking as a Berkeley resident and a longtime environmentalist myself, I never thought that I would see the day when stopping climate change would be used as a reason to justify the forced displacement of longtime residents and businesses. In particular, the attack on the West Berkeley Alliance of Artisans and Industrial Companies is especially galling. To accuse these local businesses as people living the past flies in the face of reality. Many of these companies have been "green businesses" long before it became a trendy thing to do. Urban Ore, for example, has been recycling household items and building materials for well over 25 years. This so-called "Green Corridor" that Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates so loudly trumpets is merely a smoke screen to mask the intentions of a few well-connected moneyed interests who want to turn West Berkeley into an extension of Emeryville with ever more expensive condos and office buildings. I even recall that in a past radio interview Mr. Bates justified these actions as simply being part of the "free market," something that would have made Ronald Reagan beam with pride. It's as if a sort of "Manifest Destiny" is being preached by these so-called "progressive" political forces. While I have nothing against the idea of green industries, I nevertheless believe that the actions of the City of Berkeley to de-industrialize the flatlands are, in my opinion, killing the goose that lays the golden egg. The businesses that WEBAIC represents greatly contribute to the economic well-being of Berkeley and generate much needed revenue that stays in the city. With the East Bay in the middle of a major economic recession, to purposely destroy independent businesses and the artistic community who live in this neighborhood is nothing short of insanity. This pie in the sky called "Green Jobs" is still in the birthing stage, and to risk our regional economy on a maybe is the same sort of thinking that got us into our current economic disaster. It makes much more sense to keep manufacturing in West Berkeley, which will in turn create a fertile environment for independent green-related businesses to start and to flourish. In all, I find Mr. Gammon's recent column to be one of the most disingenuous pieces of journalism that I have ever come across.

John F. Di... , Berkeley

Moore to the Story

Jay Youngdahl tells us that Michael Moore wants an end to home evictions. To paraphrase Mark Twain, let's see what this person really means:

1) Rational or fiscally burdened tenants will stop paying rent.

2) Without money for repairs, landlords will allow buildings to become uninhabitable and

3) Without money to cover taxes, landlords will abandon buildings.

4) Loans underneath those buildings will crash.

5) Government services dependent on tax revenue from those buildings will be starved out.

6) Homelessness will skyrocket.

7) With the evisceration of the housing supply, the cost of living space will zoom. Like everything else Moore creates from the isolated aerie of his million-dollar Park Avenue penthouse, this is a movie I don't want to watch.

David Altschul, Berkeley

Correction

In our November 18 music feature on Pirate Cat Radio, we misstated the year that major radio ownership rules changed. It was 1996.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

YOU'VE GOT A HOME ON OUR NEW WEB SITE

Version 2.0 of our web site offers more opportunities for reader participation, greater social networking tools and a redesigned search interface

By Stephen Buel

People who visit EastBayExpress.com will notice a difference in the site's basic look and feel. On Thursday, we unveiled the second iteration of our web site since becoming independent in mid-2007. There are several significant changes, and the biggest ones involve you.

In column one of the new home page, you'll find a greater emphasis on reader-generated content. Your comments, your reviews, and your event favorites all have a greater role on our site. And people who subscribe to our newsletters or post comments or reviews on the site now have their own personal profile. That page aggregates their comments and can be used to share upcoming events and favorite locations or stories with friends.

Visitors also can now share their opinions about any upcoming event or East Bay location. And unlike another site that has been criticized for modifying reader reviews for commercial reasons, the *Express* will never tamper with or change the order of your reviews. The only time we will remove a review site is when it violates our Terms of Use, which readers can review via a link at the bottom of every page. Threatening comments, inappropriate language, and spam are not permissible at EastBayExpress.com.

Another major change revolves around improvements to our search interface. Whether you are searching for an old story, an upcoming event, a movie time, a site member, or one of several thousand East Bay locations, you'll find a new interface that makes it easier to narrow your search and find what you're looking for. To search, just enter a search term in the window in the upper left corner or use any one of the pull-down menus containing a magnifying glass.

The site also includes an expanded range of user tools. Each story can be added to a custom list, bookmarked on a page of personal bookmarks, or shared with the world via easy links to Digg, Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks. And upcoming events can be added directly to your iCal or saved on your profile page as a way of telling friends what's on your agenda.

As with any new web site, there will be bugs. If you encounter something that isn't working properly or have suggestions about what we could do to improve the interface, please feel free to e-mail me personally at Editor@EastBayExpress.com. I hope you like what you find. ●

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THE NEW BUDGET MESS

California is facing a $21 billion deficit next year while Oakland struggles with a $19 million problem this year. Plus, the BART cop trial is moved to downtown LA.

By Robert Gammon

Just a few months after solving the last major budget crisis, California lawmakers are now facing a massive new one. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, next year's expected deficit has now ballooned to $20.7 billion because of rapidly declining revenues due to the recession. Moreover, solving the new financial problem will be anything but easy.

That's because the same financial gimmicks that legislative leaders employed to close this year's $24 billion budget gap are no longer available. In addition, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has already ruled out raising taxes to help solve the new crisis. In other words, expect the new budget crisis to consume Sacramento for much of the year.

Locally, the Oakland City Council may attempt to solve the city's new $19 million budget mess by selling some city-owned properties. City staff suggested such a sale might include the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center along Lake Merritt and the George P. Scotlan Convention Center in downtown Oakland. Staffers estimate that the centers could generate $11.6 million in one-time revenues, although they acknowledge that selling the properties in the current real estate market could be difficult.

City staff also recommends against further budget cuts because city departments were decimated earlier this year when the council slashed more than $90 million in an attempt to balance this year's books. The council also is mulling over proposals to raise the city's utility tax rate and the local sales tax rate, along with a parcel tax measure to help fund police and fire services. All three of the tax measures would require voter approval.

BART Cop Trial Goes to LA

In a victory for prosecutors and the family of Oscar Grant, a judge sent the murder trial of ex-BART cop Johannes Mehserle to downtown Los Angeles. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, Mehserle's defense team had wanted the case moved to conservative San Diego County, where the jury pool likely would have been more sympathetic to police officers.

But Judge Morris Jacobson appeared to select Los Angeles, which is demographically closer to Alameda County, because it would be cheaper. Although San Diego County officials said they could be ready for a trial sooner, they need extra funds from Alameda County to pay for extra security. They also said the Alameda County judge must come to San Diego to try the case. Los Angeles officials made no such demands, although they said they won't be ready for trial until later next year.

Jacobson ruled earlier this fall that Mehserle can't get a fair trial in the East Bay because of extensive pretrial publicity. Prosecutors and Grant's family had been concerned that moving the trial to conservative San Diego County would have more likely resulted in Mehserle's acquittal.

Oak Knoll Cleanup

The former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in the Oakland hills, which has been strewn with overgrown weeds and hollowed-out buildings for more than a year, is finally going to get cleaned up. Lehman Brothers, the bankrupt co-owner of the property with developer SunCal, has agreed to pay $3.7 million to clean up the property. Oakland City Attorney John Russo hammered out the agreement, with an assist from local neighborhood groups. The cleanup will include demolishing about ninety-plus buildings on site, removal of toxic asbestos, and vegetation management.

EBMUD Sued Over Dam

Environmental groups that oppose a proposed new dam on the Mokelumne River in the Sierra foothills filed suit against East Bay MUD. The lawsuit by the Foothill Conservancy, Friends of the River, and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance argues that East Bay MUD's environmental impact report fails to address the damage that the new dam will cause. The agency has said it will conduct a more thorough analysis before the new dam is built. Last month, the agency's board of directors voted 4-2 to go forward with a slightly smaller version of the dam than originally proposed.

Three-Dot Roundup

Large and rowdy demonstrations at several campuses failed to stop the UC regents from raising student fees a whopping 32 percent next year. ... California's unemployment rate reached a seventy-year high last month, jumping to 12.5 percent. And the true jobless rate, which includes part-time workers and those who have stopped looking for employment, hit 22.5 percent. ... A new poll showed that GOP candidate Meg Whitman is now deadlocked with Democratic state Attorney General Jerry Brown. ... The state is forcing television makers to drastically reduce the electricity wasted by flat-panel TVs. ... The Chevron refinery in Richmond and the Shell refinery in Martinez are the state's two top emitters of greenhouse gases. ... Some early childhood education advocates are opposing ex-State Senator Don Perata's tobacco-tax measure because they say it will siphon money from kids' programs. ... The Berkeley City Council ignored NIMBYs from the Berkeley hills and relaxed noise limits for downtown nightclubs. ... Prosecutors have charged an Oakland man with murdering a woman and her seventeen-month-old son in Berkeley. ... The Oakland Raiders agreed to a Coliseum lease extension through 2013. ... The Coliseum authority, meanwhile, has joined the city's effort to attract World Cup soccer matches in 2018 or 2022. ... And Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums neglected to disclose a trip to South Africa as a gift, as required by state law. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

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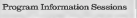

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Cornucopia Institute

Questionable pasture at a Dean Foods lot in New Mexico

ECO WATCH

GREEN WASHING THE MILK

Two organic milk companies dominate the industry by relying on lax federal standards. Some local producers, however, are doing it right.

By Robert Gammon

The organic dairy industry has fallen on tough financial times in the past year. Small farmers have been especially hard hit, as the recession prompts price-conscious consumers to buy cheaper alternatives. Yet despite the severe downturn, two giants of the organic milk industry are going strong. And the secret to their success appears to be a loophole in federal law that lets them market their milk as "organic" while raising their herds in a manner that critics say mocks the term.

Two companies have come to dominate the world of organic milk in recent years: Dean Foods, which owns the Horizon brand, and Aurora Organic Dairy, which provides milk to major retailers who then convert it to house brands. For example, if you buy organic milk marketed as Safeway Organics, it's actually produced by Aurora. The Colorado-based company also supplies so-called "private-label" organic milk for Wal-Mart, Costco, and Trader Joe's.

Dean and Aurora continue to gain market share in part because lax federal organic standards allow them to operate, or contract with, massive farms that maintain dense herds of cattle. Aurora operates five big milk-producing farms in Colorado and Texas. By the company's own count, the farms range in size from 630 heads of cattle to 5,250. Dean Foods, which also owns Berkeley Farms of Hayward, contracts with at least [illegible] privately owned farms with more than 1,000 cows each. Some environmentalists contend that large operations are nothing more than factory farms, where cows are crowded into tight confines and then milked to death as they stand in their own feces.

Critics also say these relationships enable Aurora and Dean Foods to undercut the prices of smaller milk producers who own or contract with farms that provide ample grazing room for their cows and are stewards of the environment. "The smaller farms just can't compete," said Mark Kastel of the Wisconsin-based Cornucopia Institute, a leading environmental advocacy group and watchdog in the organic industry. "They're having to compete on an unlevel playing field."

Kastel and other critics also contend that it's not just their massive size that gives Horizon and Aurora a big edge, but also how they practice their "organic" farming. The companies appear to be taking advantage of a federal standard that only requires farmers to provide their cows "access to pasture."

This standard, critics argue, has allowed large companies to herd milk cows onto giant feedlots where they're given organic food. The well-fed cows are later provided "access to pasture," but it's essentially meaningless because they've already eaten. And because the cows don't actually rely on the pastures for food, they can be kept in unsustainably crowded conditions. They also are often milked three times a day instead of two, in order to extract as much milk as possible. "What you have is giant feedlots of thousands of cows that are overly milked and then die young from stressed-out lives," Kastel said.

In an interview, Aurora spokeswoman Sonja Tuitele maintained that her company's ownership and operation of its own farms — and not the size or practices of those farms — have allowed it to weather the economic downturn. The privately held company has posted relatively flat sales compared to last year, she said. But that performance has come at a time when smaller organic milk companies have experienced significant losses or exited the business entirely.

Sara Loveday, a spokeswoman for WhiteWave-Morningstar, a division of Dean Foods that includes Horizon organic milk, Silk soy milk, and Land O Lakes butter, credited the "diversity" of her company's operations for keeping it financially healthy. And healthy it is. In the company's latest quarterly report filed recently with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, it boasts that "Horizon Organic outperformed the overall category with an increase in market share." Horizon already was the biggest player in the organic milk industry before the recession started.

Both spokeswomen also made a point of saying that their companies and suppliers abide by federal law. But there's no denying that both dairies have experienced some substantial embarrassments in the recent past. For example, in 2007, the US Department of Agriculture revoked the organic certification on a 10,000-cow farm in California's Central Valley that supplied milk to Dean Foods because it wasn't providing access to pasture at all.

That same year, USDA staffers recommended that a massive Aurora-owned dairy in Colorado lose its organic certification as well. But then a top Bush Administration appointee overruled the recommendation and gave the company what amounted to a slap on the wrist — one year of probation — after it agreed to change its practices.

Both companies also have been sued repeatedly by small farmers and consumers because of their business practices. And some organic advocates are urging the USDA to change its organic rules to require that cows actually have to graze at least 120 days a year so that producers who don't honor this standard won't have such a huge advantage over those who do.

Aurora spokeswoman Tuitele said her company now grazes its cows at least 120 days a year on all of its farms, and that most cows are now milked only twice a day. However in late August the Cornucopia Institute filed an official complaint with the USDA, alleging that the grazing practices at Aurora's High Plains Dairy in Colorado still flout the intent of federal organic laws.

For starters, the organization says it has evidence that the High Plains Dairy is providing its cows with pasture that is unsuitable for grazing. It also contends that even if the company were supplying its herd with nutritious crops to graze on, such as alfalfa, the huge numbers [illegible] quickly overrun it. According to Aurora, the dairy provides its 3,690 cows with just 600 acres of grazing land, which works out to about six cows per acre. By contrast, the accepted standard for ensuring that a pasture remains sustainable is two cows per acre. In its complaint, Cornucopia contends that Aurora's lack of pastureland coupled with the large size of its herd makes "meaningful grazing, even if appropriate crops were available, a dubious proposition."

Consider the Alternative

So what should consumers do? Well, there are plenty of alternatives to Horizon and the house organic brands at Safeway, Farmer Joe's, and Costco. One exemplary Bay Area milk supplier is Clover-Stornetta of Petaluma. The family-owned company operates a cooperative with small North Bay organic farms that employ sustainable farming practices. "Our philosophy is that cows should have continuous access to pasture and they should get nutrients from that pasture," explained Clover-Stornetta President Marcus Benedetti.

Eco Watch recently visited one of Clover-Stornetta's longtime organic milk suppliers — the Triple C Ranch on the outskirts of Petaluma. Owner Bob Camozzi said he grazes about 400 milk cows on 910 acres of land, which works out to about one cow for every two acres. In other words, Camozzi's cows get twelve times as much space as Aurora's. Camozzi, however, is not one to brag about his methods or criticize others. "I don't want to point fingers," he said. "But I do think people should be educated."

His cows spend most of their time during the spring growing season grazing on the far reaches of his sprawling acreage. And he said he never milks the cows more than twice a day — once in the morning, before they go out to graze, and then again in the late afternoon, when they return. "If you push a cow, she doesn't last very long," Camozzi explained. "And if you don't milk them as much, they last a long time."

A Horizon milking station Cornucopia Institute

Clover-Stornetta is available at most independent grocers, including Berkeley Bowl and Farmer Joe's in Oakland. In addition, Whole Foods' California stores have replaced Horizon with Clover-Stornetta. And if organic milk is too expensive for you, Clover-Stornetta's traditional milk also comes from small farms that practice sustainable farming, don't use hormones, and ensure that their cows graze on viable pastureland.

On its web site, Cornucopia rates organic milk and dairies throughout the nation. It gives Clover-Stornetta a four-cow rating, with five being the highest possible. Straus Family Creamery in Marshall near Point Reyes also received a four-cow rating. By contrast, both Aurora and Dean Foods' Horizon milk received zeroes after refusing to partake in the survey.

What About Soy?

Dean Foods also came under fire this year when it changed its popular soy milk brand — Silk — from organic to "natural" without altering the traditional packaging. The term "natural" has little meaning under federal law in terms of soy milk. In fact, Dean Foods admits that its new "natural" Silk product comes from soybeans sprayed with insecticides and pesticides.

Not surprisingly, consumer groups immediately accused the company of trying to dupe consumers in order to maximize profits, noting that the new "natural" line was still more expensive than traditional non-organic soy milk. "It was sneaky," said Kastel of the Cornucopia Institute. "It's representative of what's going on."

Company spokeswoman Loveday said they informed their largest customers of the change, as well as their major suppliers. Dean Foods later altered the packaging to make the switchover to "natural" more apparent and introduced a separate line of Silk organic milk with new packaging as well. Overall, Silk owns about 70 percent of the national soy milk market. Loveday said the company was not trying take advantage of consumer confusion over organic and "natural."

Nonetheless, a study last year showed that tricking consumers is pretty easy. The study revealed that most shoppers think "organic" is just a fancy way of saying "expensive," and don't realize that it's regulated by the federal government. By contrast, they think "natural" is regulated, when it's really not.

The study by the Shelton Group, a Tennessee-based marketing firm, found that 57 percent of consumers thought foods labeled with "100 percent natural" or "all natural ingredients" meant that they were superior. Only 26 percent thought the same about food labeled with "100 percent organic" or "certified organic ingredients."

Although it's not local, Eden Foods makes an excellent organic soy alternative to Silk. Cornucopia gives the Michigan based company its highest rating — five beans. The consumer's group also gives four beans — the second best rating — to Whole Soy of San Francisco, which makes soy yogurt and soy frozen yogurt. ■

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HAYWARD AT ODDS OVER PROPOSED PLANT

Air quality district is expected to approve operations of new power plant, but some aren't happy about that.

By Megan Geuss

Residents of this neighborhood are not thrilled by the prospect of a power plant nearby. Megan Geuss

In early 2001 the Calpine Corporation made plans for a 600-megawatt natural gas power plant on Hayward's Russell City shoreline. When the company approached the Hayward City Council, the council unanimously approved a contract to push forward the proposed Russell City Energy Center. The speed of its decision was unsurprising given that the state was in the midst of its 2001 energy crisis. And Calpine, a huge energy company with a stake in 97 major geothermal and gas-fired power plants in California, also was offering millions of dollars to the City of Hayward in one-time and recurring property taxes, and an extra $21 million in charitable contributions.

Calpine boasted that its Russell City Energy Center would be one of the greenest and most efficient plants of its kind. And in 2001, natural gas still had the reputation of being the clean alternative to coal-fired plants, and the proposed plant was based on some of the greenest technology in the industry. The California Energy Commission gave Calpine a green light in 2002 and again in 2007, when the energy company amended its permit to move the construction site 1,300 feet northwest of the original spot. Yet "greenest" is a relative term, and today many residents of Hayward and students and staff of nearby Chabot Community College are furious, arguing that the devastating effects of more pollution in their community would outweigh any benefits of inviting Calpine to the neighborhood.

At first glance, Hayward's "Russell City" is an unincorporated enclave of factories. It's not really on anyone's weekend getaway radar, unless you're driving a fuel delivery truck overtime. But about a mile and a half away from the industrial hustle, people live and work in a patchwork suburbia that fits tract homes from sixty years ago together with apartment complexes from the Nineties. A few blocks from the proposed site, you can hear kids shout at Chabot Community College's child care center, or see middle school students playing basketball at recess. The thin seam between residence and industry has been a fact of life for many Hayward residents, although the last ten years have called into question what residents will and will not accept in their backyard.

Opponents worry about the plant's possible health effects on nearby residents, and also about the safety of the plant's proposed proximity to the Hayward Executive Airport. Anthony Iton, former director of the Alameda County Public Health Department, wrote two open letters to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in 2009, both stating that the department had concerns about the plant's potential to "adversely impact the health of Alameda County residents — particularly those living, working, and studying in Hayward — those whom I have a mandate to protect." Susan Sperling, an anthropology instructor at Chabot College who has worked with a taskforce of students, faculty, and staff who have been organizing in opposition to the plant, said that her students and peers were afraid of the toxins in an area with an already high rate of asthma and cancer.

Other opponents include expected players such as Communities for a Better Environment, EarthJustice, and Californians for Renewable Energy, but also some unexpected organizations, including the California Pilots Association, which worries that smoke plumes from the power plant might waft into the aircraft that fly into Hayward's airport and could disrupt the readings of the aircraft's instruments, or even render a pilot unconscious.

Calpine appears to be just one permit away from actually starting construction. Only the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has yet to approve the power plant, and both

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Calpine and its opponents expect that it will. The agency opened a public comment period in September and has been reviewing and preparing to respond to all 210 comments that it received. And while there is no date by which the agency is legally required to issue a permit, Calpine must begin construction in Russell City by September 2010 or its state permit will expire. Calpine's spokespeople do not foresee that the air district will delay issuance of its permit beyond next September.

The proposed Russell City Energy Center will burn natural gas to create electricity while also using the heat created by that cycle to create steam. The steam would power a second electric turbine, thereby producing more electricity than the typical natural gas power plant. The energy center would also use recycled wastewater from the City of Hayward to cool its machinery and generate steam, rather than diverting potential drinking water for the plant, as many older facilities do.

But many people who actually have to live and work near the power plant take issue with Calpine's claim to "greenness." A coalition of students, faculty, and staff from Chabot College, as well as citizens and environmental activist groups, say they are seriously concerned about emissions from the proposed plant. The California Energy Commission granted Calpine a permit to build based on expected emissions during peak operation, when the electricity and pollutant output is much more efficient, and not during start-up, when power plants generally produce many more times the amount of pollutants. So the emissions from an average day at the plant might be considerably higher than the energy commission expected. The final commission decision suggested that Calpine purchase top-of-the-line technology that would significantly reduce the amount of time needed for the plant to start up. Calpine cited economic reasons for not purchasing the technology and made some compromises with the CEC, including a promise to limit start-ups between June and September. "Bottom line is it's still illegal," said Hayward resident and real estate agent Rob Simpson, who asserts that the plant's toxic output during start-ups will violate the federal Clean Air Act.

Not all of Hayward is opposing Calpine's presence in Russell City. The city council still supports the plant and is loath to turn down the millions of dollars in property tax revenue and the 650 temporary jobs and 30 permanent jobs that Calpine construction would create during a recession. Even after the $22 million in charitable donations promised the city in 2001 has been whittled down to $10 million, there's still political support for the Russell City Energy Center. "My view is, overall there's more benefits than non-benefits," said Public Works Director Bob Bauman. "And that's always a judgment call when it comes to things as complex as this." Bauman said that after ten years of meetings by the city council and the energy commission, opponents had plenty of opportunity to voice their opinion. He believes that, with the sanction of the energy commission and probably the air district, Calpine's energy center will be safe and make economic sense for Hayward.

But there are uncertainties amidst Calpine's promises. Last summer, Calpine President and CEO Jack A. Fusco wrote in the *San Francisco Sentinel* that the Russell City Energy Center would "help replace older plants around the state and lead to improvements in air and water quality." However, Calpine spokeswoman Norma Dunn admitted that Calpine has no plans to shut down any of its older plants. She suggested that it was California state policy to phase out older, more polluting plants, and yet spokesman Perry Dellis said that agency possesses absolutely no authority to shut down a private power plant to which it has previously granted a permit.

Hayward residents have had one previous victory against egregious pollution. At the time the Russell City Energy Center was initially proposed by Calpine, another energy company was also proposing its own, nearby Eastshore Energy Center. It would have been a similar but smaller power plant much closer to the Hayward city center. However, the citizens of Hayward rallied against the Tierra Corporation's plans, and the widespread resistance factored in the energy commission's decision to deny Tierra a permit to build. In its final 2008 decision, the commission cited the proposed plant's threat to aviation at the nearby airport, but also noted that "members of the Hayward community expressed vigorous opposition to the [Eastshore Energy Center]. Scores of individuals, community representatives, and elected officials participated at our public hearings. The Energy Commission's Docket Unit received more than 1,900 written comments on the [Eastshore Energy Center]."

The Russell City Energy Center is further away from the city center, making it "out of sight, out of mind" for the average Hayward resident. It's also much bigger than Eastshore would have been, so Calpine has a bigger stake in making sure it is constructed and the permitting process has been more drawn out. Susan Sperling says the residents of Hayward had success in opposing Eastshore, but not Russell City because "the Russell City power plant had rather quietly been approved at a time when there was much less consciousness of environmental justice." Unlike Eastshore, she added, it "really came to our attention when it was further along in the process."

Opponents of the Russell City Energy Center aren't sure they'll have a happy ending like they did with Eastshore. But the permit process has moved so slowly that any number of complications could arise for Calpine, and opponents have been taking advantage of every opportunity to throw a wrench in Calpine's plans. The dogged opposition to the Russell City Energy Center has been propelled by ordinary citizens like Rob Simpson, who assembled more than one thousand Hayward residents and slogged through bureaucracy and legalese on his own time to stop the plant.

If the air district issues a permit, and it most likely will, opponents of Calpine can appeal the decision to the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Appeals Board. Yet the EPA already saw an appeal hoping to shut down the Russell City Energy Center after California issued a state permit for the power plant, and many think the EPA would expedite any new appeal in favor of Calpine.

If opponents of the plant can't gain the upper hand via the regulatory process, some plan to try other methods. Simpson noted in a recent e-mail that since the City of Hayward still technically owns the property on which the energy center will be built, he and other residents might consider proposing a ballot initiative to take away the land from Calpine, or even ask a state or federal court to require Hayward officials to shut down Calpine's operations. ●

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IN OAKLAND, HUNGER IS MULTICULTURAL

Thousands of local families don't get enough to eat. A diverse group of people tends to their needs.

By David Bacon

Everyone knows that Oakland is diverse. Probably more people from more races and nationalities live in the city than anywhere west of New York or north of Los Angeles. But before we celebrate diversity, think of its most diverse places. Some of them are surely the lines of hungry people lining up for food.

Oakland has many food pantries — programs run primarily by churches on a shoestring. Church elders are often found at the Alameda County Community Food Bank's huge warehouse out by the airport, buying as much food as they can for as little money as possible. They worry that the bags of cans and produce they distribute will run out before everyone in line gets one.

Reverend Lee from the Cornerstone Baptist Church, a food bank stalwart, fills the small storefront off MacArthur Boulevard with white plastic bags of cans, dried goods, and bread. Then the people come. Mostly Chinese-American and African-American families get their food from the African American activists from his church.

On the other side of the airport, in a park by the freeway, sound wall next to the 98th Avenue exit, a very diverse group of Asian, black, Latino and white folks bag up fruits and vegetables. Early in the morning, families of primarily Mexican immigrants arrive to get numbers and wait. After the big food bank truck unloads and the baggers begin work, Columbia Gardens breathes a sigh of relief as people once again have food for the coming week.

The early morning slot is the arrival time for the Good Samaritan food pantry in the neighborhood of East Oakland some folks call New Chinatown. Older Chinese women line up their shopping carts and sit or stand on the sidewalk across the street from a small, ramshackle house filled with food. Then, joined by African Americans and Latinos, they trade numbers for bags, and patiently surround huge cardboard bins of lettuce, cucumbers, and pears.

Later this year, the Food Bank will publish a study that will estimate the size and depth of Alameda County's hungry population. We already know some of the figures. A third of the people in hungry families are younger than eighteen, and a quarter are older than 50. With Oakland's official unemployment rate well over 10 percent, and the unofficial rate well over that, fewer than one quarter of food pantry clients get most of their income from a job, although

Continued on page 14

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In Oakland, Hunger is Multicultural

Continued from page 13

probably next week.

We'll learn more when that report comes out. But a look at the people in line tells you the basic facts. Oakland has thousands of families who don't have enough to eat. They come in all races and nationalities. And so do the people who care enough to help them find the food they need to survive ●

To share this story go to ebx.ly.cr/hunger

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CULTURE SPY

STRIKE UP THE BANDA

Bench and Bar opens a second location in downtown Oakland

By Rachel Swan

The June demise of downtown Oakland's Vibe Lounge didn't augur well for the LGBT community, whose ranks are large in Oakland despite a dearth of entertainment venues. And Vibe was just one in a spate of let-downs. Club Velvet, an on-again off-again lesbian venue in the Laurel district, appears to have gone straight — save for a few sporadic drag king performances. (At present, the bar's phone is disconnected.) Nonetheless, one local gay bar has managed to surmount the bad economy and even expand its business. The 31-year-old Bench and Bar, long known as a niche club for gay Latinos, recently opened a second location at 510 17th Street — a prime piece of real estate that used to house the hip-hop joint @17th. It's a risky time for development, the Bench and Bar owners admit. But they have high hopes.

"We were picked from a pool of eighteen organizations," said Alex Loera, who helps run the Bench and Bar corporation with his husband Charles Bisbee. Their love story roughly coincides with the club's business trajectory. They met in 1995, when Bisbee was managing the bar for another owner. Loera, who originally hails from Mexico City, says he used to drive all the way from Santa Rosa to catch Bench and Bar's Friday night event, "Latin Explosion." At that time, the neighborhood was still a little sketchy. It was certainly a long way from the posh entertainment district that now houses Luka's Taproom, the Uptown, and the Fox. But Loera said that nothing bad ever befell him, and the trip was worth the drive. He knew of only one similarly themed gay Latin club in San Francisco's Mission district, but it was smaller and more insular. Parking was a lot better in Oakland, and the Bench and Bar Club — which at that time was located at 11th and Franklin streets — attracted a wider cross-section of people. Not to mention the DJs played music that Loera listened to at home: a mélange of Latin pop and banda, with some American hits peppered in between.

"They have a real solid base," said Kenny Kroll, a happy-hour bartender who started working at Bench and Bar as a Cal student. "Gay Latinos were the powerhouse behind it. The Latin gay community is really, really tight." To this day, he says, patrons routinely drive from as far as Santa Cruz or Modesto to catch the Saturday night banda performances.

Having that customer base gave Bench and Bar a lot of extra mileage in a scene that often defies the laws of supply and demand. Culturally, Oakland has always been hella gay in comparison to other US cities (the most famous phrase about the city was uttered by a lesbian author, after all). Yet while San Francisco is awash in gay infrastructure, Oakland's record has always been pretty spotty. Venerable institutions like the White Horse and Bench and Bar are few and far between. Other clubs like Velvet and Vibe Lounge seemed to fizzle out within months of arrival. In some cases, said local promoter Hae Young Min, whose "Hella Gay" party packs the Uptown Nightclub twice a month, club owners rely on anachronistic images to market themselves. Min says she's seen the same flyer over and over again: "A dude who's half naked with his chest out, and a chick who looks like she's straight. It's like, really? We haven't changed after twenty years?"

Bench and Bar certainly doesn't suffer for any lack of half-naked dudes. In fact, there's a half-naked dude plastered across the home page of the venue's web site. But the club also has name recognition and longevity. Launched 31 years ago by a judge and lawyer (hence the name), Bench and Bar has seen several iterations since its inception. Current president Bisbee started there as a doorman and worked his way up the ranks. He purchased the club back in 2000 with longtime Bench and Bar DJ Keith Hobbs, a business partner. Kroll started going there on Friday nights as soon as he turned 21, and Hobbs hired him to barback a couple of shifts at the Thursday night lesbian party. ("They drug me through the dirt," said Kroll, who was relatively unschooled in the wherefores of drink mixing.) Vice President Frank Moore joined in 2002, a couple of years before the club moved from its 11th Street locale to another space on Franklin Street, at the top of a long flight of stairs. A few years ago, Moore and Loera became official partners in the corporation, and Kroll, no longer a novice, returned to man the happy hour crowd.

Alex Loera at the new Bench and Bar

It took several months to seal the deal at 510 17th Street, a huge club with a wraparound bar, mezzanine VIP area, and largely air-tight smoking section (in what used to be the "cigar room"). The new club fits 660 people, a much-needed addition to the 420-capacity venue on Franklin St. (which Bench and Bar has rechristened Club 21). It's a much better place to do business, said Loera, who prefers being street-level and wheelchair accessible. Leading an impromptu tour on the day before last week's ribbon-cutting ceremony, he showed off all the amenities at 510 17th Street: a newly installed dance floor and go-go stage with lights underneath, the smoking room with its high ceiling and lounge chairs, a vending machine that served junk food and cigarette packs, a dummy bar with empty bottles of Moet, Courvoisier, and Hornitos. Chairs, tables, and a flat-screen TV in the VIP section were all salvaged from the old hip-hop club.

Even faced with one of the worst recessions in collective memory, Moore and Loera remain sanguine about their expanded business. They've taken steps to amplify the Bench and Bar brand identity, which for years catered to Latino men six nights a week, with one night, "Cauchichicas" (now called "Tasty") allocated for women. Now they have a house music night on Thursdays that's extremely popular in the African-American LGBT crowd (they've hired such DJs as Dedan, who used to spin regularly at Air Lounge and Lake's). Saturdays go to Club Rumshot, a popular men's hip-hop event run by longtime Oakland promoter Joe Hawkins. Regular beauty pageants, vaquero contests, and a monthly "bear" event — for the gay subculture whose members tend to be burly and bearded — will round off the newly diversified program.

For a niche business, Bench and Bar appears to be prospering, and a lot of its success derives from having the market cornered on multiple fronts. It is, after all, the East Bay's only gay Latino establishment, and now it's one of the only house-music venues to boot. Loera said straight people are certainly welcome, too, although the bar did take pains to hang a rainbow flag in front — so that no one confuses it with the hip-hop club @17th. For now, no one's worried about catching the bad-economy blues. "The community is out there and the people are out there," said Loera. "Whether it's a recession or 9-11, we noticed that a lot of people come out and drink." ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Keith Terry Paul Haggard

He's Got a Slammin' Body

Keith Terry hosts the International Body Music Festival

Keith Terry discovered the musical capacities of his own body decades ago, long before he learned that "body music" is actually a serious discipline with its own genealogy. It spawned from other dance forms like hambone, which supposedly had its genesis in the Stono Slave Rebellion of 1739. Lore has it that slave owners seized their slaves' drums in the aftermath, so the slaves began improvising and ultimately turned themselves into human percussion instruments. Hambone is one of the world's most elemental forms of dance, but its bedrock rhythm bleeds into everything. Braiding with European clogging and Native American dance forms, it created tap, which is considered a progenitor of hip-hop and step dancing. Meanwhile, body music developed independently in many other parts of the world. Spanish flamenco uses hand clapping and stylized footwork. Arabic dancers came up with their own form of interlocked clapping. South American gauchos created their own zapateo or "shoe-tapping" dance. One could even say that krumping (a street dance from Los Angeles) and hyphy turf dancing (from Oakland) are descendents of the form.

The protean nature of body music impressed Terry as much as its longevity. Now well known as a scholar of the form and founder of Oakland's own Slammin All-Body Band, Terry recently added to his list of accomplishments the **International Body Music Festival** — a weeklong celebration of cheek slappers, beatboxers, and shoe tappers throughout the diaspora. Terry launched the first all-body fest last year after securing a Guggenheim Fellowship. He recruited dancers from Brazil, Turkey, and France, as well as Inuit throat singers, hyphy turf dancers from Oakland, and a Balinese composer whose *kecak* chant piece featured gamelan rhythms. Some will return this year, not to perform but to check out the second iteration, which promises to be equally broad in scope, with performances of Spanish flamenco, South African gumboot, *zapateo criollo*, step dancing, and Samoan *sasa* — a call-and-response form that involves a lot of chanting and slapping the floor. Vocal percussionist Kenny Muhammad will unveil his vast arsenal of polyrhythms. Oakland's Rashidi Omari will showcase contemporary hip-hop dance with a one-man rhythm section provided by Slammin beatboxer Steve Hogan.

There's no set rubric for the festival, and Terry's only rule is to eschew outside instrumentation. He's even asked tap dancers Evie Ladin and Max Pollack to perform in leathers. "One could say that shoes in general take away from the body," Terry explained, with the caveat that he's still playing with the concept. At present, he wants to make the performances as spare and primal as he can, the way body music was at its inception.

The International Body Music Festival runs Dec. 1-6 at various Bay Area locations, including **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) and **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). CrossPulse.com

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.fypr/slammin

ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510/238-4928. Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, entrances off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

[illegible] Drop items off at the 98.1 KBLX-FM booth in Center Court and spin the prize wheel. Cans will be donated to the Davis Street Family Resource Center in San Leandro, as well as the local Salvation Army. Fri., Nov. 27, 8-10:30 a.m. free. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com.

Pistahio-Gordon Recreation Glass Studio Sale Vases, bowls & sculptures at bargain prices. Starting Nov. 27. Nov. 27-29: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. free. Pistahio Gordon Studio, 2080 Union St., Oakland. 510-645-8088.

Salvation Army Giving Tree Select a gift tag and buy or donate a present to a child in need. Nov. 27-Dec. 24. free. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com.

Women's Building 31st Annual Celebration of Craftswomen Local artists offer handmade gifts in a variety of media including ceramics, jewelry, clay, sculpture, fiber art, soap, leather, metal, books, textiles, and fine art. For info, visit CelebrationofCraftswomen.org. Starting Nov. 28, Fridays, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 6. free. Fort Mason, Marina Blvd. and Laguna St., San Francisco. 415-345-7575. FortMason.org.

KIDS

Art Classes for Students with Disabilities Ages 6-99 can learn to draw, work with clay, make Ukiyo prints, and more in an artistic environment in a group setting; additional five students per class. Call to register. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater, animals, the animal of the day, and more. admission. 11 a.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Children's Kung Fu Classes Taught by the monks from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $10. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.org.

Children's Philippine Folk Dance Joy teaches traditional Philippine folk dances on selected Sundays. Sundays, 1-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $150 a quarter. Call to register. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.org.

Hello, My World! A creativity workshop for kids grades 2-12. Parents encouraged. Drop in anytime. Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m. $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Lecturas en Español Classics and new favorites, read in Spanish, with vocabulary-building games and crafts, from Spanish-speaking cultures around the world, and refreshments. First Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m.; First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0832.

Oakland Recreation Department Go to U-Center.org for information on the city's parks, classes, swim centers, youth services, senior activities, Project BEACH, and more. Daily.

FunStuffDownTown This Girls Inc. program is for

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PICKS

Holiday Events on Bay Street

Swing bands, string quartets, marching toy soldiers, steel drummers, mariachi bands, roaming carolers, and Santa Clauses will all descend on **Bay Street Mall** this holiday season, as business owners prepare for what will hopefully be another fruitful December — recession be damned. Kids get to make crafts or pose with Santa, while their parents explore one of the most retail-heavy locales in the East Bay. Bay Street will also host a special warm-coat drive and Salvation Army Giving Tree for those who equate the holidays with altruism and goodwill. The fun kicks off, appropriately, on Black Friday (Nov. 27) with a visit from Santa at 11 a.m. Events continue through Dec. 24. BayStreetEmeryville.com *— Rachel Swan*

Spice Monkey Thanksgiving Dinner

Fish sandwiches, Mediterranean wraps, and tea-leaf salads aren't the only reasons that **Spice Monkey Cafe** (1628 Webster St., Oakland) has become the new go-to lunch spot in downtown Oakland. It's also a place with high-minded social ideals, from the locally sourced ingredients on its menu to the art that graces its walls. On Thursday, Nov. 26, Spice Monkey offers a **complimentary Thanksgiving meal** to patrons who arrive with five canned donations for the Alameda County Food Bank. The meal includes a main course and special goods, though beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available for purchase. The meal starts at 5 p.m. Drop by the restaurant to make a reservation. SpiceMonkeyCafe.com *— R.S.*

Vegetarian Thanksgiving Potluck

Most historians would agree there wasn't any Tofurkey on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. But they would also agree that there wasn't any beer, football, or even rooms, for that matter. So let's mix it up a little. And while we're at it, how about we do away with meat too? Sound good? On Thursday, Nov. 26, check out the **annual "Give Thanks and Honor Natives" community vegetarian potluck feast** presented by East Bay Food Not Bombs at the **Ashkenaz** (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). 6-9 p.m., free. Ashkenaz.com *— Phillip Marshall*

Warriors vs. Lakers

Bay Street Mall

The Lakers are coming to town. And, yes, the **Golden State Warriors** are scheduled to play them. The Saturday, Nov. 28, game is the first visit of the year from the Los Angeles Lakers, aka the First Team of the National Basketball Association. It might also be the first time casual hoops fans check out what is left of the Warriors organization. Golden State spent the off-season bickering and complaining, already in mid-season form. The team's captain is gone, most of their front line is injured, and those who remain seem kind of focused on getting out. What better time to host the best team in all of pro hoops? For those who have been desperate to see NBA basketball at the highest level, better come to the **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) this weekend, otherwise you're likely to have to settle for watching the Warriors. 7:30 p.m., $15-$2,000. NBA.com/warriors *— Kibby Kleiman*

E&A

girls who want to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in mentorship and leadership skills, and then put those skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own [illegible] plans and activities, such as sign language, singing French songs, [illegible] poems, and their games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-523-5743. [illegible]

Fall Family Primary [illegible] Art [illegible] with crafts and projects for kids in grades K-8. Through Nov. 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., [illegible]. MOCHA, Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Kids' Book Group A new reading group for [illegible] last Sunday of every month. 11 a.m.-noon, [illegible]. 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. [illegible]

Kids Paint The Town More than 570 pieces of kids' art will be displayed in merchant windows and empty storefronts in [illegible], Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. [illegible] College Avenue art walk. Through Nov. 29. MOCHA, Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

[illegible] Self Oakland, for Girls Certified [illegible] classes [illegible] for girls ages 10-18, [illegible] kickboxing, yoga, karate, and kung fu into a noncompetitive, nonaggressive workout. Sundays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., $15 drop-in rate; $100 for unlimited classes/month. 510-847-3400. [illegible] 1240 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-524-5083.

[illegible] Facilitated by [illegible] Sundays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

National Puppet [illegible] Sing-Along [illegible] at the National Puppet Theater present a fun and engaging puppet show. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m., $4.95 for kids, $2 for each additional sibling, free for adults and parents. Sadie Dey's Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Beginning classes [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of Indian Classical Arts, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-273-2447. [illegible]

[illegible] with Santa Nov. 27-Dec. 24. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com.

Richmond Recreation and Parks Department Visit CI.Richmond.ca.us/[illegible] for a complete list of sports, leisure, [illegible] and kids' activities, and [illegible]. Daily.

Santa's Arrival Featuring live music, holiday crafts, and photos with Santa. Fri., Nov. 27, 11 a.m., free. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com

Teddy Bear Tea in The Lobby Lounge Children and their favorite stuffed animals gather for traditional Teddy Bear Tea with Sobby the Elf, holiday storytelling, [illegible], and a visit and photograph with the cuddly Ritz-Carlton teddy bear, complemented by a small teddy bear to take home and a special tea experience of hot chocolate, teddy bear cut-out [illegible] and [illegible] sandwiches. A portion of proceeds will benefit The Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation. Fri., Nov. 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., $80.00. 415-773-6198. Ritz-Carlton, 600 Stockton St., San Francisco.

Teen Advisors Teens are invited to join a group that reviews books, plans programs, and generally advises Teen [illegible] librarians. Wheelchair accessible. Please do not wear scents to public meetings. To request a sign-language interpreter, [illegible] in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for library meetings, call 510-981-6100 or TTY 510-548-1240 at least five working days prior. First Tuesday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m. 510-981-6121. Berkeley Public Library, Central branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Dear Diary Thursdays Music, snacks, movie games, and crafts. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] branch, 1565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Books Children's program features stories, music, and magic ideas. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Wildlife [illegible] On Saturdays, hear a story and [illegible] animals. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn cool [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m., free with [illegible]. [illegible] 0777 Golf Links Rd., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

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LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and admirers are welcome. Enjoy snacks and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Dress up, make friends, take pictures, and get fashion tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., $15-20, [illegible]. 43979 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

East Bay Front Runners Join the GLBT group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

[illegible] Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their 20's to the East Bay. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Weight Watchers Meeting [illegible] for more info. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $9.22. [illegible] Finnish Kaleva Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., Berkeley.

LGBTQ Youth Group Free group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Wednesdays: youth leadership. [illegible] days; hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.; Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Berkeley Group Support group for transgender men and women seeking peer support. Fridays, 8-9:30 p.m., $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., free. [illegible], 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. [illegible]

Discussion [illegible] Everyone is invited to [illegible] on a broad range of topics, including [illegible], education, death, laughter, and [illegible]. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony The [illegible] holiday tree is illuminated by [illegible] and his little helper from the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation. This [illegible] evening [illegible] apple cider, [illegible] holiday [illegible] and visits with Santa after the ceremony. Wed., Dec. 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Ritz-Carlton, 600 Stockton St., San Francisco.

[illegible] hosted by [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m., free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel [illegible] Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-5401. ImaniCC.org.

Thanksgiving Holiday [illegible] for Singles For info call 415-507-9962 or visit ThePartyHotline.com. Single professionals of all ages welcome. Sat., Nov. 28, 8 p.m. $20. [illegible] 11500 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Kung Fu [illegible] Taught by monks from the [illegible] temple and [illegible] Foundation. Tuesdays, [illegible] p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $10 drop-in [illegible] packages. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Aikido [illegible] For info visit [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $40/mo. for 2 classes per week; [illegible] one class per week. Live Oak Center, 1301 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

How to Select A Bike [illegible] Right for You With [illegible] expert [illegible] McConnell. Tue., Dec. 1, 7 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Ladies Night Special tee times [illegible] for women. [illegible] 510-848-7373 ext. 202. Wednesdays, 5-30 p.m., $30 to walk, $65 for a cart. $5 of each purchase will benefit the American Heart Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak and Shasta Rd., Berkeley. 510-848-7373. TildenParkGolf.com.

Midnight [illegible] Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m., free. [illegible] Park, MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

[illegible] Bike Tour Weekly Bike [illegible] Leisurely 15-25-mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m., free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

[illegible] Ski Club Weekly Meeting Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round activities include waterskiing, sailboat, tennis, golf, and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., [illegible]. The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-937-1270.

[illegible] and Qi Gong Students learn the [illegible] based on boxing forms that involve the hands, eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 1, 2010. [illegible] Temple, 2180 [illegible], Berkeley.

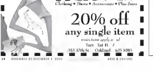
SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors Vs. Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball. Sat., Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m., $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors Vs. Indiana Pacers NBA basketball. Mon., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball Vs. Princeton Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Sun., Nov. 29, 2 p.m., $10-[illegible], 800-GO-BEARS, [illegible]. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-0580.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.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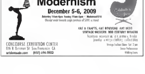
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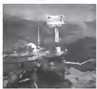

Mars Exploration Rover — 1:3 scale model

The Ultimate Day Trip

We have liftoff at Moraga's Hearst Gallery

On Christmas, 1949, twelve-year-old Oregonian Frank Hettick received a copy of Willy Ley's book, *Conquest of Space*. The book's stunning astronomical paintings by Chesley Bonestell (who would later do matte paintings for Stanley Kubrick's *2001*) fascinated him, and he began creating tempera paintings of his own along rocketeering themes, studying rendering and perspective in high school and participating in the growing space fever of the 1950s and 1960s, which he and others now deem "The Golden Age of Space Art."

That tradition did not end with the advent of real space travel, however; the knowledge gained from satellites, robotic probes, and various forms of radio astronomy and computer imaging have been eagerly assimilated by space artists, as is demonstrated by ***Out of This World: The Landscapes of Our Solar System*** at **St. Mary's College's Hearst Art Gallery**. It is a treat for adult science and art aficionados as well as budding future Hetticks (though not for small children, probably). Developed by the gallery's Carrie Brewster and Saint Mary's College professor of astronomy and physics Ronald P. Olowin, the show boasts a wealth of scientific information (frozen nitrogen geysers on Venus' Triton, Mercury's 700-degree daily temperature shifts, a possible subterranean ocean on Jupiter's moon Europa) integrated with dazzling images of the cosmological sublime in a range of media: paintings by **Joe Bergeron**, **Michael Carroll**, **Kevin Davies**, **Don Dixon**, **Mark A. Garlick**, **David Hardy**, **William K. Hartmann**, **Frank Hettick**, **John Kaufmann**, **Ron Miller**, **Walter B. Myers**, and **Kees Veenenbos**, along with books (including Miller's/Hartmann's *The Grand Tour*) featuring their work; photographs from the Voyager 1 and 2, Cassini and Mars Rover exploratory missions; a beautifully designed interactive introduction to our solar system by sophomore **Daniel Walsh**; a NASA mini-documentary, *Journey to the Planets and Beyond*, narrated by **Harrison Ford**; a flight simulation of Mars' immense and spectacular Mariner Valley, large enough to contain the Los Angeles basin with ease; a Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter globe; and a model of Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Mars Rover set against a typical Red Planet landscape. *Out of This World* runs through December 13 at Hearst Art Gallery (St. Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga). StMarys-ca.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery or 925-631-4379.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: ebx.hy.pr/solar

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space. The Robot Taxonomy Project Exhibit curated by the Robot Identification Institute (under the direction of Eric K. Daughtry) features new and relief art works based on different robots from the Robot Taxonomy. The RII will take reports, provide advice about unusual robot activity, and expand the Robot Taxonomy. Through Dec. 6. 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery. Everything I was I Desired in Memory Art exploring memory by Kevin Parish Bauser and Franz Bode. Through Nov. 29. 1-10 p.m. free. (415)-734-0307. royalnonesuchgallery.com. 4523 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

57th Street Gallery. Jazz Art Lavelle Allen, Valery Kapustin, Moore Mulrue, [illegible] Kidd, Ronald Rhodgers, and Mould Simmons present paintings of John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, Thomas Jones, Duke Ellington and other jazz. Reception: Billy Whitmore. Receptions Sat.-Sun. Oct. 24-25, Nov. 21-22, Dec. 19-20 with refreshments and live jazz. Through Dec. 20. 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-8174. 57thStreetGallery.com.

ABCD Warehouse Space. Challenge of Champions Community art exhibit, commenting on Oakland [illegible]. Through Dec. 28. 1135 Filbert St., Emeryville. ABCDArtSpace.com.

Amen Gallery. The Big Frame-Up Featuring stamp and carved art in original frames. Through Nov. 30. 2008 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-4583. AmenGallery.com.

Basement Gallery Oakland. Appalachian Sculpture by Bob Dunbar. Through Dec. 4. 2027 3rd St., Oakland. BasementGallery. MosaicGuido.com.

Bedford Gallery. Objects of Virtue Exhibit looks at the curated area, [illegible] qualities, and sculptural possibilities of clay and ceramic works. Dec. 1-Jan. 31. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center. Metaphysical Abstraction: Contemporary Approaches to Spiritual Content Group show curated by James Brunner and Michelle Gutierrez. Through Nov. 29. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. The Abe Obiols Series Works by Colombian painter Fernando Botero. Through Feb. 8, 2010. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Artisans Open Studios: Holiday Open Studios Free self-guided tour of 100 professional artisans' workshops and galleries. Maps available at Eighth Street Studios. Starting Nov. 28. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 20. **Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios** Free self-guided tour of 100 professional artisan workshops. Maps are available for pickup at 2547 Eighth Street #24a, Berkeley CA 94710. Visit BerkeleyArtisans.com for more info. Starting Nov. 28. Saturdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 20. 2547 Eighth St. #24 A, Berkeley.

Blankspace: Holidayland Featuring more than 100 local artists, designers and crafts people, plus Paul Bunyan-themed photos and a [illegible] Bunny. Plaid Friday Reception: Nov. 27, 6-9 p.m. Gallery will offer a free gift for the first 50 people who spend $50 or more. First Friday Reception: Dec. 4, 6-10 p.m., with live accessory making, food, drinks and Paul Bunyan [illegible]. Nov. 27-Dec. 20. 6000 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6000. BlankspaceGallery.com.

Bridgewood Contest: The Ransom Journey [illegible] poetry, prose, and medals art to represent her near-death experience. Through Dec. 6. 2516 Blanding Ave., Alameda.

Cal State East Bay University Art Gallery. Spiritual Vessels: Content Treasure Selection of works from [illegible] collections by artists at the Raku tradition. Through Dec. 3. **Chinese Spiritual Vessels at CSU East Bay** A collection of 60 teaware vessels at the Raku tradition. Mondays-Thursdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.; Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 3. class.csueastbay.edu/art/gallery/. **Chinese Spiritual Vessels at CSU East Bay** A collection of 60 teaware vessels of the Raku tradition. Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 3. class.csueastbay.edu/art/gallery/. **Chinese Spiritual Vessels at CSU East Bay** A col-

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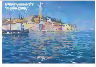
PICKS

Animal

With [illegible] books and movies [illegible] American industrial farming's horrors, cages, downer animals, and excrement ponds (and inhumane cruelty), the award-winning Oakland animal-rights activist and artist **Sunaura Taylor** takes a mordant look here at body-image consciousness — our instinctive aversion to abnormality. Some animals are indeed more equal than others, as Orwell's Squealer proclaimed. Taylor's painting, "Animals with Arthrogryposis," depicts various food animals (Figs. A, B, and D) along with the artist herself, nude and stooping (Fig. C), all afflicted with a congenital but not hereditary joint deformation (the name means curved or hooked joints); jaunty yellow arrows connote ingestion and defecation. No less ferocious/feral is Taylor's wall display of altered photocopies, juxtaposing images of sideshow freaks, medical curiosities, and slabs of meat — just carve along the dotted line. Disturbing and provocative: Are we not men? *Animal* runs through November 28 at **Rowan Morrison Gallery** (330 40th St., Oakland). RowanMorrison.com or 510-384-5344 — *DeWitt Cheng*



Selected Works

With [illegible] Moms and Bay Bridge [illegible] headlines bearing the news, we need a [illegible] of [illegible]ration. Oaklander **Anthony Holdsworth** is showing a dream reel of paintings of Oakland, San Francisco, the wine country, Italy, and Mexico. With picturesque scenes rendered in summery Monet-ish palettes, these are genial paintings: The diptych "Conge Panorama" provides a sweeping view of rolling meadows and vineyards above a tranquil San Francisco Bay framed by blue mountains; "La Stalla, Tuscany" depicts an ancient stone farmhouse; "Dragon Boats at Jack London Aquatic Center" may suggest Venetian gondolas to Italophiles. Yet some of the paintings reflect current events: "Storm Clouds over the Chronicle" refers to financial storms as well as the weather page; and the two-thirds-completed "Oakland Global Warming Triptych" imagines downtown gradually deluged. *Selected Works* runs through December 6 at **Caffè 817** (817 Washington St., Oakland); 510-272-9776. — *D.C.*

M&G

[illegible]

The Crucible Gallery of Art. [illegible]

Eclectic Gallery. [illegible]

[illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center. [illegible] 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] LaPena.org.

[illegible]

Lunch Stop Cafe. [illegible]

Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible] 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible]

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC): [illegible]

[illegible]

Mills College Art Museum: [illegible]

[illegible]

Paws and Claws: [illegible]

[illegible]

Swarm Gallery. [illegible]

Mohr, Harris Art Gallery. [illegible]

The Gallery [illegible]

Trywick Gallery. [illegible]

[illegible]

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FRIDAY NOV 27 @ BAM/PFA

MOVIES

FEATURED SERIES
OTTO PREMINGER: ANATOMY OF A MOVIE

LAURA 7 PM
Detective Dana Andrews is enthralled by a portrait of elusive Gene Tierney in Preminger's sleek noir, a study in duplicity that asks not just whodunit, but what "it" is. Featuring Clifton Webb and Vincent Price as preening rivals. Otto Preminger (U.S., 1944, 88 mins)

FALLEN ANGEL 8:50 PM
This follow-up to *Laura* trades the earlier film's gloss for lower-depths grit. Andrews drifts into a small town and into big trouble when his plans to finance a romance with Linda Darnell by marrying rich Alice Faye go awry. Otto Preminger (U.S., 1945, 98 mins)

Tickets/Info: bampfa.berkeley.edu/filmseries

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DOORS 5 PM KALX DJ The Bipolar Bear✱no-host bar

GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM
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FRIDAY NIGHT FILM @ PFA THEATER
$9.50 additional feature $4; free admission to L@TE with same-Friday PFA ticket

WHIRLPOOL Otto Preminger (U.S., 1950; 97 mins), 6:30 PM
MÉLO Alain Resnais (France, 1986; 110 mins), 8:30 PM

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FRIDAY NIGHTS @
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THEATER & DANCE

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Fat Pig By Neil LaBute, directed by Barbara Damashek. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Thu., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 6. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Large Animal Games Steve Yockey's new play deals with relationships and big game hunting. Directed by Melissa Hillman. No performance Nov. 26. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. $13-$17. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Live performance of Rocky Horror Picture Show. Nov. 28-29, 11:30 p.m., $10, barelylegal.rhps.org. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-452-3556. [illegible]

Sparkle Stage version of the 1976 film. Directed by Dawn Vaughn Scott. Soul food champagne galas on Nov. 14 & Dec. 26. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 5. $13-$45. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Stateless, A Hip-Hop Vaudeville Experience Play by Dan Wolf and Tommy Shepherd of Felonious, with music by One Ring Zero and [illegible], directed by Ellen Sebastian Chang. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 6. $15-$45. The Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida St., San Francisco. 415-464-3547.

The Threepenny Opera written by Bertolt Brecht, music by Kurt Weill, directed by Susannah Martin. Starting Dec. 2. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 17. $18-$58. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Tiny Kushner West Coast premiere of the play written by Tony Kushner and directed by Tony Taccone. Through Nov. 29. $13-$71. Berkeley Repertory Theatre Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

The Wizard of Oz Directed by [illegible], with musical direction by Phil Gorman and choreography by Megan Glynn. Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 6. $17-$25, $20. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. juliamorgan.org.

More Listings Online
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COMEDY

Comedy by Michael Fourth Saturday of every month, 8 p.m., $10-$25. Englander Sport Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro. 510-357-3571. EnglanderPub.com.

Comedy Off Broadway With a rotating cast of comedians featured on HBO, Comedy Central, Late Night Shows. For info visit ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland. 510-452-1776.

[illegible] Wed., Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 27, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 28, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 29, 7 p.m., $20-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Showcase w/ rotating pros. Fridays, 7 p.m., $12-$18. http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Thursday Night [illegible] w/ rotating pros. Thursdays, 8 p.m., $5. www.sfcomedycollege.com. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Music [illegible] plus a live musical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $10, $5 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Smuin Christmas Ballet Featuring new choreography by Amy Seiwert and Robert Sund. Commons at Sunset Center in Carmel (Dec. 5-6), Mountain View Center for the Arts (Dec. 8-13), and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Dec. 16-27). Fri., Nov. 27, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 28, 2 & 8 p.m. $41-$56. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] Celebration Mariachi performance plus dancing. Wed., Dec. 2, 12-1 p.m. Free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Live Lingerie Show w/ prizes, [illegible]. 5-7 p.m. Free. Warehouse Bar, 402 Webster St., Oakland. 510-451-3801. TheWarehouseBar.net.

[illegible] Carolers Starting Dec. 1, Tuesdays, Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22. Free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland. ■

PICKS

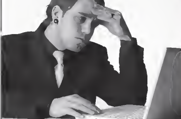
Fat Pig

Fat phobia may be a real and palpable thing, but it doesn't have to be — well, heavy. Not according to director Barbara Damashek, whose interpretation of the new Neil LaBute drama, *Fat Pig*, includes a string of winking references (e.g., use of Queen's "Fat Bottom Girls" in the play's climax). It's a vicious, funny, and skewed exploration of body consciousness and shame. The twist here is that women's bodies aren't necessarily the centerpiece of the play. Rather, they serve as a repository for male characters to fling their insecurities into. Enter Tom (Joel Wilford), the good-looking, eager-to-please office worker who falls for a smart, pretty fat girl named Helen (Liliane Klein), whose name is a not-so-veiled allusion to another famous Helen. They enter into a closet relationship but ultimately get found out by Tom's co-worker Carter (played with sadistic glee by Peter Ruocco) and former love interest Jeannie (Alexandra Creighton). Thus begins a snarly morality tale in which Tom tries — and ultimately fails — to reconcile his affection for Helen with his desire to [illegible] social order. Everything in the play symbolizes something else: from the characters' names to the basketball court drawn on the floor and Helen's compulsive eating (which seems to be more about filling an emotional void than about physical hunger). It's an engrossing production. Through Dec. 6 at **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). AuroraTheatre.org — *Rachel Swan*

Smuin Ballet's *Christmas Ballet*.

Smuin Christmas Ballet

The [illegible] is the distant [illegible] the pitter-pat of little toy soldier feet marching toward this year's *Nutcracker* season, a tried-and-true formula. But what if snowflakes and sugar plums aren't your thing? Then try the **Smuin Ballet's *Christmas Ballet*** for a festive change of pace. The company's fifteenth annual holiday show promises to be sophisticated and sweet in equal measure; previous years have included everything from a jaunty "Jingle Bell Mambo" to a hula-themed "Christmas Island" to lyrical dances to Mozart, Handel, and J.S. Bach. For all its cheerful color and spirited fun, the show calls on the dancers' mastery of both classical and modern technique, a mix that's made Smuin a Bay Area treasure and one of the most original and entertaining companies anywhere. At the **Lesher Center for the Arts** (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) on Friday, Nov. 27 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., $42-$56. SmuinBallet.org — *Claudia Bauer*



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THEATER

BIG-GAME HUNTERS

Desire gets carnal in *Large Animal Games*

By Rachel Swan

We're all animals in *Large Animal Games.*

Large animals loom in Steve Yockey's new comedy *Large Animal Games* at Impact Theatre, although the real ones — a Spanish bull and African gazelle — have an absent presence. The real bull is a gorgeous Lothario named Miguel (Roy Landaverde) who falls prey to sweet, matronly Rose (Elissa Dunn) when she shows up at a *carrera del toro* in his pueblo. Rose recounts the story to her friend Nicole (Cindy Im) over a bottle of Jameson's after coming home with a new prize in tow. At that point, it's hard to tell who got gigoloed. Rose is clearly a woman on the hunt, and she describes Miguel in terms that a naturalist might use to depict an antelope. But then Miguel emerges, clad in a red towel that swishes around like a cape, freshly showered from a TransAtlantic flight that he took on Rose's dime, hungrily eyeing Nicole. He's an animal, indeed, but also a willing participant in his own exploitation.

We are all animals, according to Yockey. And as such, we're enslaved by our primal instincts. The characters in *Large Animal Games* all desire intimacy or fulfillment, but they have different — sometimes bizarre — ways of seeking it. Rose and Nicole have such repressed female libido that they'll willingly act out a sex fantasy before thinking it all the way through. Spoiled Alicia (Marissa Keltie) strives for class privilege and financial security. Rose's roommate Valerie (Leontyne Mbele-Mbong) sees big-game hunting as a form of empowerment. Miguel wants whatever he can get. It's the women who do all the desiring and manipulating here. They stock rifles, stack their ammo, and brag to friends about their exploits. The men, meanwhile, seem to enjoy being feminized. Alicia's boyfriend Stan (Timothy Redmond) wears women's lingerie beneath his boy clothes. Miguel happily prances around in a towel and says sweet nothings in Spanish, allowing Rose and Nicole to derive pleasure from objectification. Jimmy (Jai Sahai), the store clerk of a women's lingerie boutique that becomes a central motif in the script, serves as both a fashion consultant and one-way spiritual guide.

Show Details

Large Animal Games runs through December 12 at La Val's Subterranean (1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley). Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m. $15-$20. ImpactTheatre.com

At seventy minutes, the play is quick, clean, and a little unsatisfying, but that's probably the point. It weaves three storylines around the theme of hunting and desiring (i.e., animal games) amid a hodge-podge of gender symbols. The lingerie store, as envisioned by director Melissa Hillman and scenic designer Sarah Coykendall, is a weird liminal zone where characters act out their fantasies. Its walls are purple and white; its boudoir contains a rack of identical scarlet frocks dyed the same blood-lust red as Miguel's *toreador* bath towel. Salesclerk Jimmy is an aggressively femme St. Peter with his omnipresent tape measure and constant volley of customer service pleasantries. Everyone enters that space with his own motivations. Rose wants to trap a man. Alicia wants to look like an expensive doll. Stan wants to imagine himself being looked at.

Then there's the gazelle, another symbol that Valerie encounters on her Kenyan safari. Facing the barrel of Valerie's gun, it seems tender and fragile — certainly less barbaric than the human trying to kill it. Since Valerie is coded as the play's most androgynous character (she wears baggy safari clothes and carries a phallic weapon), some might see the gazelle as a lost "feminine side" coming back to haunt her.

In that short window of time, the stories resolve to varying degrees. Valerie has the most interesting trajectory, though her character leaves the most to be desired because most of her story is filtered through monologues, rather than acted out. Rose is by far the best character, mostly owing to Dunn's terrific interpretation. Dunn plays Rose as one of those congenitally maternal gals who hits middle age before the end of her twenties. She easily gets seduced by the idea of being useful to somebody — even a low-life Spaniard whose language she doesn't understand. Alicia and Stan's story has the most potential and the least payoff. Their compromise at the end is more a Band-Aid solution than a genuine reconciliation. You realize, moreover, that he's not fast enough for her. The real Alicia would never go for a dude who relied on women's underwear for his "swagger."

For a company of modest means, Impact came up with a pretty compelling interpretation of *Large Animal Games*. Its stage doesn't allow for real set changes, so most scenes took place with those purple and white lingerie store walls in the background — which actually gave the play a sense of continuity. The play's only real deficiencies lay in the script proper, which left a lot of questions unanswered — like what will become of Alicia's relationship with Stan, or Rose and Nicole's friendship, or Valerie and Nicole's romantic relationship, or Valerie's femininity. Perhaps Yockey meant to keep things open-ended because seldom in life do we experience complete fulfillment — and desire is such a malleable thing, anyway. Or maybe he wanted to leave a large animal in the room. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/ez/biggame

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Is That You, Mother?

Japan's first shamans were female, says novelist Marie Mutsuki Mockett

Marie Mutsuki Mockett.

The women in Satomi's small town suspect that her mother is an ex-geisha from faraway Tokyo and that Satomi is the bastard child of a long-vanished customer. Despite their gossip, they can't help but envy Satomi's mother. Albeit an expert on textiles and ceramics, "with men she affected an alert, almost childlike expression, wide eyes taking in everything they said as though it was all, right down to the most inane reenactment of a day at work, the most interesting information she had ever heard," writes **Marie Mutsuki Mockett** in her debut novel, *Picking Bones from Ash*, in which Satomi, Satomi's mother, and Satomi's daughter Rumi are links in a chain wrought of secrets and regrets. No wonder Rumi hears ghosts.

"Many serious 'literary' readers and editors ... shy away from anything to do with 'the occult,'" muses Mockett, who will give a talk on Japanese fairy tales and unattainable women at the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Monday, November 30. Given the popularity of anime, this puzzles her. And although "I'm basically a realist and a rationalist ... yes, I have had a couple of very profound experiences. I've learned that a true encounter with the unknown almost always stems from something deeply personal — something deep within the psyche," says the author, who grew up in Carmel and majored in East Asian studies at Columbia. In Noh plays, "ghosts or possessed women are suffering because of some personal injury or hurt. They need the help of a Buddhist priest to relieve themselves of attachment and suffering. Further, scholars tell us that Japanese spirit possession probably originates in part from old shamanistic practices. And did you know that the original rulers — and shamans — in Japan were women? This is not the way we think of Japan today, and yet there are many traces of this kind of feminine power not only in fairy tales, but also in popular culture."

In *Picking Bones from Ash*, antiques authenticator Rumi has the paranormal ability to intuit objects' backstories. This too draws upon fairy tales and surrealist anime, "where objects often do come alive and talk. In societies that have held onto a sense of animism, a talking cat or lamp are not so strange," says Mockett, whose father, who collected Asian art similar to the wares whose provenances Rumi is asked to verify.

Having grown up in San Francisco believing that her mother was dead, Rumi becomes absorbed in the mysteries surrounding Satomi. Her ensuing journey shimmers with the ever-shifting lights and darks of the mother-daughter bond.

"I'm not convinced the therapeutic mining of mother-daughter relationships that we as a culture have done over the last twenty years has really made us any happier. ... Perhaps we've led ourselves not into some kind of greater understanding about ourselves," Mockett ventures, "but into a kind of awful Buddhist drama where some of us are too attached to our suffering." 7:30 p.m., $5. HillsideClub.org.

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/ebx/mockett

LECTURES

Hunger: Why the World's Hungriest Starve in an Age of Plenty Roger Thurow, author and journalist, *Wall Street Journal*, speaks about worldwide hunger. Mon., Nov. 30, 8 p.m., free. UC Berkeley North Gate Library, 105 North Gate Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-0936. Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

The Meaning of Choice An examination of "choice": who has it, who doesn't, and the implications of that difference from Women with a Passion. Nov. 29, 4 p.m., $10; $5 Seniors. 510-644-2957. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Science, Consciousness and God Peter Russell, with degrees from Oxford University in theoretical physics, experimental psychology and computer science, speaks about consciousness. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., free. northbase.org. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. 510-526-3805.

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Free Book Exchange Placing unwanted books with the people who want them. Saturdays, 5 hours, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible].

Challenges of Champions: Reflecting on the Effect of Oakland Homicides @ Public Art Free art exhibit curated by Nina Pletshue of RCL Arts. The Free Cone Art Wall presents a display of letters written by Oakland youth, plus wooden sculptures of sight in response to homicides in Oakland. Dec. 1-31, free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Claudia Pruett and Rima Barkett Discussing their new cooking manual, *Cooking Dinner: Simple Italian Family Recipes Everyone Can Make*. Tue., Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Gary Gach Wed., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Jeffrey Haas Discussing his new book *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther*. Mon., Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Black Oak Books, 1788 4th St., Berkeley.

John Curl Discussing *For All the People*, his new book on cooperative movements. Sun., Nov. 29, 3 p.m., free. Book Zoo, 6395 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-2600.

Oil and Watercolor Art Featuring Images from Italy and the Bay Area by Gloria Albanese Dec. 2-23, free. Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Sharing Books We Love Class members take turns discussing a book and inspired them, led by Cyndi Clymer. Last Sunday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested. American Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 510-000-0001. UUFB.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Bankruptcy Lawyer @ the Library Wed., Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Rethinking the Alameda Meeting The Alameda chapter invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for food, drink, and liberal and progressive politics. Register at DFA meetup.com. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Pizza Palace, 2456 Shoreline Square Dr., Alameda. 510-864-7427. PizzaPalace.com.

East Bay Jewish Exchange Dear Meeting Meeting Fridays, 4-8 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Lawyers in the Library Representatives of the Alameda County Bar Association offer free legal information. Concurrent events at Dimond Branch (3565 Fruitvale Ave.), Rockridge Branch (5366 College Ave.), and West Oakland Branch (1801 Adeline St.). Tue., Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

Older People Stories For Library over 75, fourth and Second Thursday of every month, 1:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Bay Partners Center, 1400 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-9696.

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PICKS

Robin Lakoff

Excuse me ... but would it be okay if I borrowed your Manolos? Because they're so gorgeous and you're such a good friend. A pioneer in the study of gendered and politicized speech, UC Berkeley linguistics professor **Robin Lakoff** has authored several books including *Talking Power* and *Father Knows Best*. Her Sunday, Nov. 29, talk at the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) is titled "An Examination of Choice." 4 p.m., $5-$10. HillsideClub.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

Jennifer Kim

In UC Berkeley grad **Jennifer Kim**'s novel, *Waiting for Appa*, a man leaves his wife and daughter in South Korea and departs for the United States, promising to bring them over as soon as he can. Ten years later Esther and her mother arrive — just as a tragedy throws them both upon the mercy of strangers. Meet Korean-born, Newark-bred Kim at the **Newark Library** (6300 Civic Terrace Ave., Newark) on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org. — *A.R.*

Claudia Pruett and Rima Barkett

Through the nonprofit A Table Together Foundation, **Claudia Pruett** and **Rima Barkett** teach healthy cooking to kids. At **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, Dec. 1, Pruett and Barkett — who have prepared meals for Nobel Laureates — discuss their book *Cooking Dinner: Simple Italian Family Recipes Everyone Can Make*, which includes easy versions of bruschetta, saltimbocca, and more. 6:30 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com. — *A.R.*

Gary Gach

First, empty your mind. Breathe slowly. Stop wishing for riches.

Repeat. For more eloquent insights on Buddhism, meet **Gary Gach** at **Moe's** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Wednesday, Dec. 2. The author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Buddhism* and editor of the American Book Award-winning *What Book!?: Buddha Poems from Beat to Hiphop*, Gach has also translated three volumes by Korean ex-monk and political prisoner Ko Un. 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com — *A.R.*

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BODY&SOUL

What the Atom Felt

Viruses are sentient beings, argues consciousness-studies scholar Peter Russell

Peter Russell

When we watch sleeping dogs' legs or muzzles twitch, we wonder what they might be chasing in their dreams. And while they're not capable of telling us in words, we accept that dogs are conscious creatures. Why else would we ask veterinarians to give them injections so that they won't suffer pain during surgery, asks consciousness-studies pioneer **Peter Russell**, who will give a talk at **Northbrae Community Church** (941 The Alameda, Berkeley) on Wednesday, December 2.

"If dogs possess consciousness, then so do cats, horses, deer, dolphins, whales and other mammals. The same is true of birds, some parrots, for example, seem as aware as dogs," Russell reasons. "And if birds are sentient beings, then so, I assume, are other vertebrates — alligators, snakes, frogs, salmon and sharks. However different their experiences may be, they all have awareness of some kind or other. The same argument applies to creatures further down the evolutionary tree," muses this Cambridge-educated author of ten books, including *The Brain Book*, *The Global Brain*, and most recently, *From Science to God*. "The nervous systems of insects are not nearly as complex as ours, and insects probably do not have as rich an experience of the world as we do, but I see no reason to doubt that they have some kind of inner experience. Where do we draw the line?"

This question has shaped Russell's career. After studying mathematics and earning a degree in theoretical physics in 1969, he traveled from his native Great Britain to India where he studied transcendental meditation with the Beatles' yogi, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Maintaining his interest in meditation, he then earned a degree in computer science — long before computers were a household word, much less a household fixture.

Now a fellow of the Petaluma-based Institute of Noetic Sciences, Russell posits that the general public's notions of what constitutes consciousness — and where it resides — are narrow, archaic, and inaccurate. Rather than requiring a brain or even a nervous system in order to exist, "the faculty of consciousness must be present all the way down the evolutionary tree. Some single-celled organisms are sensitive to physical vibration, light, and heat," he points out. "Who is to say they do not have a corresponding glimmer of awareness?" According to this view, there is nowhere we can draw a line between conscious and nonconscious entities; there is a trace of sentience, however slight, in viruses, molecules, atoms, and even elementary particles."

Although scientific progress is all well and good, "I think what we need today is to gain an integration of our scientific understanding of the world with the wisdom that is held in the world's spiritual traditions," Russell says. "The next great frontier is not outer space. It's inner space: the search into the nature of consciousness itself, the one thing we all know for sure and the one thing we've not yet explored." 7:30 (preceded by optional $7 pasta dinner at 6:30 p.m.), free. Northbrae.org

—Anneli Rufus

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/p/russell

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization provides free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1711 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979. APEB.org.

Bay Power Strides Strides Fitness program for moms [illegible] power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training [illegible] baby strollers. Info: [illegible] Fridays, 9:30 a.m. [illegible] Emeryville.

Digestive Health Holistic [illegible] Care [illegible] Dec. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m., [illegible] Center for Holistic Health, 1273 College Ave. Suite 111, Oakland.

Kerry's Kids: [illegible] A mobile [illegible] van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings [illegible] free to children. [illegible] Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4285. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-431-8431. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

Long Cancer Support Group Networking and support group. Family [illegible] caregivers welcome. First Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., free. Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

PERSONAL GROWTH

27 Days of Change [illegible] yourself, your community, and the world. Dec. 1-27, free. 27daysofchange.com. Center for Transformative Change, 2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-548-2732. transformativechange.org.

[illegible] Codependency Workshops A weekly [illegible] for users, friends of users, parents of users, and children of users. Topics rotate weekly. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center [illegible] Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Memory Camp [illegible] Pam Schroeder shows participants how to strengthen their memory. Starting Dec. 1, Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8, free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. Oaklandlibrary.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Come and Celebrate! Sunday church service with guest lecturers. Info: 510-451-3089. Sundays, 11 a.m., free. [illegible] Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-452-3000. [illegible]

Interfaith Prayer for Peace With [illegible] All are welcome. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Center of Light Oakland, 3644 28th Ave., Oakland. 510-535-4280.

East Bay Meditation Group Vipassana meditation practice. E-mail [illegible] for info. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2147 Broadway Ave., Oakland. 510-268-0696. EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Dharma Talk, and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley. 510-845-2534.

[illegible] Theology Seminars Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m., free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Laurelwood Kundalini Yoga Wednesdays, noon, $5-$11 donation. [illegible] Conference Room, [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

Mindful Qigong Ancient practice [illegible] energy and [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., free. Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

Whole Birth [illegible] and Me Yoga and Support [illegible] your body and join other new moms to practice yoga and create a support circle. Preregistration encouraged. Fridays, 12:30-2 p.m., $100 for eight-class series, $15 for [illegible] The Nurture Center, 3399 [illegible] Lafayette. 925-283-1346. NurtureCenter.com.

PICKS

Thanksgiving Sing Along

[illegible] you than just chowing down? Join a **Thanksgiving sing-along at the First Church of Christ, Scientist** (2619 Dwight Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, Nov. 26. It's part of a Thanksgiving service whose themes include gratitude and helping others, held in the 1910 Bernard Maybeck-designed landmark church whose remarkable features include Romanesque arches and vast ceiling trusses meant to evoke a Greek cross. 11 a.m., free. 1stChurchBerkeley.org. *—Anneli Rufus*

Thanksgiving Celebration

An [illegible] tional vegetarian dinner is part of a **Thanksgiving celebration at Badarikashrama** (15602 Maubert Ave., San Leandro) on Thursday, Nov. 26. Further festivities at this Hindu cultural center include a Hindustani vocal concert by Sobhana Sabhalkar with tabla and harmonium as well as prayers for world peace conducted by Swami Omkarananda who founded Badarikashrama in 1984. 3 p.m., free. Badarikashrama.org. *—A.R.*

Free Meditation Classes

Based [illegible] one [illegible] soon becomes [illegible] already manifested. Upeksha [illegible] focuses on acceptance and equanimity. In a similar vein, Upeksha meditation aims for expanded awareness, [illegible] and the increased power of observation. Upeksha's founder Yehoshua Shy Sayer teaches **free meditation classes** every Sunday, including Nov. 29, at **7th Heaven Yoga** (1800 7th St., Berkeley). 6:30 p.m., free. 7thHeavenYoga.com *—A.R.*

Infant Massage Class

Starting [illegible] Dec. [illegible] a [illegible]-part Wednesday morning **Infant Massage Class** at the **Tulip Grove** (2078 Antioch Ct., Oakland) focuses on improving infants' sleep and digestion, easing gas and colic, relieving stress, strengthening parent-child bonding, and releasing the "love hormone," oxytocin. Teaching the classes is certified postpartum doula, massage therapist, and Certified Educator of Infant Massage Laurann Leewood. 11 a.m., $60. TheTulipGrove.com *—A.R.*

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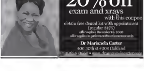
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AQUARIUM AGE

VENUS TRINE SPAWNS AMOROUS DECLARATIONS

For the week of November 25-December 2, 2009

By Ralfee Finn

It is Thanksgiving – my favorite politically correct holiday. It's not because it is a day dedicated to food, or because it signals the start of the holiday season. I love Thanksgiving because it is a day devoted to gratitude, an attitude often forgotten in the hustle and bustle of survival. Gratitude is certainly an attitude we could currently use, given that 2009 has been mostly about survival. And not just financial survival – much more than money has been threatened this year. 2009 has been a year of soul survival, personal and collective. Daily life moved from one intense moment to another even more intense moment, and as the intensity escalated, bodies, minds, and hearts, exhausted from stress, struggled to make it through. It's not so easy remembering to be grateful when you're depleted. Which is unfortunate, because that is the time when gratitude is most needed and most beneficial. A prayer of thanks alters consciousness. It unhooks attachment, recalibrates the mind, and steadies the heart.

And you'll want a steady heart this week and the next several weeks. Uranus goes Direct on Tuesday, and when Uranus changes direction, we tend to experience dramatic shifts before its actual course correction as well as after it "turns around." As Uranus flavors the Thanksgiving feast, you can expect exciting conversation, seasoned with sudden bursts of previously "unconscious" information. What's more, those blurts are sure to emotionally charged. Not because Thanksgiving always tends toward emotional catharsis, but because on that day, Venus trines a Moon/Uranus conjunction, a combination devoted to feeling. Uranus is always spontaneous, impulsive, and unpredictable and when it is conjunct the Moon, the heart is often restless. And when that restlessness is amplified by a trine from Venus, declarations of love are sure to occur. Expect amorous pronouncements about everything from the turkey to the wine to the dressing to the pie to the person sitting next to you whether or not you've ever met.

This Uranian volatility carries forward through the week. The Moon moves out range but Mercury moves into a square with Uranus by the weekend. This square can scatter mental resources, so be careful not to spread yourself too thin. Fortunately, there is support for mental determination in the form of a Mercury/Mars trine, a positive alignment capable of keeping thoughts on track. Multitasking becomes an art under this influence. Just be aware, Uranian tremors are sure to interfere with even the best laid plans and well rehearsed strategies, which means flexibility is the key to success no matter what your goals might be.

Uranus has a close relationship with the nervous system – it rides the kundalini or life force – and when it dominates astral activity, we feel its presence through disturbed sleep patterns, restless longings, and anxiety specified or unspecified. Don't be surprised if you can't settle down or settle in. Children tend to feel this energy first, so do your best to stay patient. If your dog starts howling, throw back your head and howl along. If your cat seems especially needy, try not to shame it – we know how important cool is to cats. Take care of yourself and those you love. Most importantly, find time to be thankful for what brings you joy. And let that gratitude align body, mind, heart and soul.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES Uranus' forward motion stimulates dreams, sleeping and waking. Pay attention to what flashes across your screen, because those images have the potential to deliver vital information.

TAURUS Uranus stimulates your innate understanding of human nature, which inspires you to become more active in your community. Think about how to share your gifts, and then, turn your thoughts into action.

GEMINI Uranus sparks renewed ambition, which ignites your passion to conquer any obstacles inhibiting your progress. Channel this passion into specific goals, and you'll see positive results.

CANCER Uranus spurs an appetite for adventure, physical as well as intellectual. Use this push to explore new terrain, inside and out, and you'll expand your ability to understand different belief systems.

LEO Uranus amplifies questions of value, specifically your values versus the values of others. Hold fast to what matters most to you, but do your best to understand what matters most to those you love.

VIRGO Uranus provokes relationship issues, and while some of what occurs is uncomfortable, if you examine all sides, you'll find you're not in as much conflict as you imagine.

LIBRA Uranus focuses on work, asking you to concentrate your time and energy on getting the job done. This is not as boring as it sounds, and it will yield a beneficial outcome.

SCORPIO Uranus catalyzes creativity, as it simultaneously arouses romantic impulses. Take a chance on love or commit to self-expression, either way, you can't lose.

SAGITTARIUS Uranus stirs the bottom of your psychic pond, raising deep issues of belonging. Try not to be swept away by feelings of anxiety. This is just another step in the program of self recovery.

CAPRICORN Uranus encourages conversation, and you are talking to anyone who will listen. But it's crucial that you listen, too, because if you do, you'll develop greater intimacy with yourself.

AQUARIUS Uranus highlights money matters, but not all the news is bad. Pay attention to how this phase unfolds, and you could make solid financial gains.

PISCES Uranus reinvigorates your desire for a new persona, but before you make any permanent changes, try to envision the consequences of these shifts. Some makeovers last forever. ■

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn

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MORE, MORE, MORE

Why eat in a student dining hall if you're not a student anymore? Because, at Crossroads, you can.

By Anneli Rufus

It's Berkeley's biggest restaurant, and you've never heard of it.

It seats hundreds at a time. It serves three meals a day. Its fare spans the world: say French, Mexican, Greek, American, Chinese, and Thai all offered at a single meal. Its genres, too, run the gamut. Soups. Stir-fries. Frothy coffees. Pizza. Chaat. Salad bar. Its portions are limitless. A certified Bay Area Green Business, it employs avant-garde strategies to save some 180,000 gallons of water every month. Its unsold food goes to the homeless, its scraps to a worm farm. It serves Moroccan tagines and vegan chocolate mousse and dollars to doughnuts you've never heard of it.

Occupying UC Berkeley's first certified green building, the six-year-old Crossroads is the university's largest student dining facility, but nonstudents also can eat here for a nominal price. Sure, you retort, *but why?* Because student dining has changed since my sophomore year, when "burrito night" was practically a holiday. Because the Crossroads salad bar is totally organic. Because anyone who ever lived in a dorm and ate at such places daily knows: *I could get used to this*. The boundlessness, the choice, the sense of being far from home but fed, of wanting to be grown-up enough to shop and cook for yourself but not yet.

The Crossroads
2415 Bowditch St., Berkeley
510-643-8323, CalDining.Berkeley.edu/crossroads.html
Hours (academic year): Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Wed.-Sun. 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Prices

Breakfast	$8
Lunch	$9
Dinner	$10

A soaring ceiling with deliberately exposed pipes conveyed an epic-warehouse ambience as we arrived at 6 p.m. on a Friday. The place was packed, yet not unpleasant. Long queues awaited that night's featured entrées, salmon and boeuf bourguignon. Skipping these, we stacked our trays speedily with "blackened" tofu steaks, spelt salad, thick-crust pizza, curried corn, ziti with feta, brown rice, Sumatran coffee, and barbecue Ruffles, because we could. And this is the glory of such places, that at eighteen is ecstasy, in which mixing and matching is part dare and part initiation and part declaration of identity.

Which is why we watched one student assiduously assembling kidney-bean sandwiches. We watched another devour mountains of plain jasmine rice. Another paired boeuf bourguignon with slabs of peanut butter toast. Many ate cereal and milk for dinner. While Crossroads serves three meals a day, some breakfast items — bread, vats of jam, a cold-cereal bar — are on hand throughout all three.

Seared to seal its juiciness inside, one hand-sized tofu steak over brown rice would at a restaurant cost as much as that entire buffet. And these tofu steaks could be served in restaurants, as could virtually everything we tried that night. Maybe not Chez Panisse, but your average self-respecting restaurant. It's all too easy to dismiss institutional food as sodden saltpeter-spiked Dickensian pap of the sort that sparks prison riots. Dickens never saw sesame-goddess dressing, vegan pizza Margherita, or drink stations dispensing two types of milk, six sodas, six coffees, and six Gold Peak teas, plus bags of Stash and Peerless. He never saw all those bowls of fresh apples and pears, those rows of kitten-sized cantaloupe slices. Dickens never tasted curried corn this startlingly savory-hot.

Making the rounds a second time, we acquired five-bean stew, corn chowder, and a Middle Eastern lamb-spinach scramble that, along with the barbecue Ruffles and chocolate-frosted chocolate-chip spice cake, proved to be the evening's most addictive items. Meanwhile, a machine dispenses four flavors — which change daily — of Fresh'ens frozen yogurt. Granola, broken Oreos, and other toppings wait conveniently nearby. This is where the freshman fifteen comes from.

Cannoli and Frosted Flakes: two great tastes that taste great together.

Ted Dufey

Not that they *must*. You could compile not just one but six different kinds of balanced meal here. Flesh-starch-vegetables. Soup-salad-sandwich, selected from prepared salads and the dozen-item salad bar, from vegetarian and meat soup options, from grilled cheese, Reuben, or tuna melts and made-to-order deli sandwiches. You could go macrobiotic or gluten free. You could go low-carb, low-fat, or even low-calorie.

You *could*. Or you could note the hint of vanilla in the blackberry Freshens, the bittersweet sophistication of the vegan chocolate mousse. You could go back for thirds and fourths, plus hot frothy vanilla cappuccino, all collected in a surge of polite, slightly giddy strangers.

As everyone knows who ever ate in such places daily, this is a very public kind of dining, during which you test your limits and find friends. Thus it is a theatrical, cathartic kind of dining, too. Wolfing fresh fruit, four guys at the end of our table heatedly discussed a rumor they'd heard that pineapple can be tasted, after consumption, in semen. Later, at another table, five young women ate cake, seized their bellies as we used to do so many years ago, and wailed, *I'm fat*. This is the kind of place where eccentricities bloom into personalities, where diners hunch over laptops, alone or several strong, howl like wolves and burst into song and sprint across the floor and laugh over their delicious crisp grilled-but-not-too-greasy Reuben sandwiches until they cry because most here are of that age at which everything is either hilarious or fuel for suicide. It is also the age at which most cannot quite appreciate the bounty at their fingertips or the fact that these years, this bounty, will not last.

We went back on a Monday night. Arriving at 5 p.m., we had almost the whole place to ourselves. Over the next two hours, it filled slightly but never came close to matching the Friday crowd. Pizza again, plus couscous, Chinese chicken stir-fry, mac-and-cheese, tomato bisque, better-than-you'd-expect samosas, shell pasta, pepper tagine, and dal whose explanatory placard said only *dal*, not the more condescending "lentil curry." As at all buffets, we found a bit of inconsistency. Vegan mousse, smooth and bittersweet on Friday night, was oversweet and gummy Monday. Chinese stir-fries don't lend themselves to being made and served in massive quantities over multi-hour spans. Nonetheless, no one could leave here unsatisfied. Crossroads is like every meal you've ever had, rolled into one, and in this highly sensitive, hungry, broke, and unexpectedly hopeless era, where else can you eat as much as you want of pretty much anything you want, for hours on end, with no one scolding you for chasing steak with Cap'n Crunch? ●

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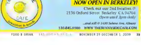
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RECENTLY REVIEWED

The Deep-Fried Twinkie & Pastrami Shop

[illegible] Ave., Fremont, 510-794-7666. Having garnered a loyal cult following, this guilty pleasure occupies two corners of the convenience store at a Valero station that sells Fremont's lowest-cost gas. Its menu includes deep-fried hot dogs and sandwiches, deep-fried Hostess treats, and deep-fried cookies, although some customers bring over their convenience-store purchases for a quick fat-bath. From Whole Foods, say, or even Trader Joe's, that is another universe, where Hostess cupcakes are dipped not entirely into batter, than fried such that their distinctive chocolate-with-white-squiggle frosting stays untouched. Deep-fried, a Twinkie loses the sponge-cake lightness that was once its signal quality and becomes something darker, something loaded. Owner Steve Yatimo and his family make their own batter, chili gravy and more, and give deep-fried cuisine a certain dignity. Not everything here is deep-fried (although the bacon-wrapped hot dog is). Hot and cold sandwiches abound, but vegetarians are out of luck. $

Chop Bar

247 4th St., Oakland, 510-834-2467. This jazzy, planked-wood Old Oakland café is one of the Bay Area's coolest hangouts. The cuisine (hearty American fare with a few Mediterranean accents) isn't always up to the setting, but the luscious pork shank with figs and apricots, the potato gratin with Piacenti cheddar and a pot de crème touched with cinnamon are delectable. Five wines are served tapped from the barrel, hipster-friendly live music Tuesday nights. $$

Arizmendi

3265 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8849; 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550. A past winner of the "best bakery in the East Bay" category of the *Express'* Best of the East Bay awards, Arizmendi — named for Basque priest/labor organizer Father José Arizmendiarrieta — is a worker-owned cooperative conceived in 1997 by workers from Berkeley's famous Cheeseboard Collective. Although a full array of sweet and savory baked goods is on offer here — from baguettes to macaroons — thin-crusted artisanal pizza is the main attraction. Only one topping combo is available every day, and that combo changes every day, and it's always meatless, featuring such components as roasted red peppers, shiitake mushrooms, cheddar cheese, and arugula. If you're not the take-what-comes/go-with-the-flow type, check out the whole month's pizza menu online. $

Cheeseboard Pizza Collective

1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3055. A line snakes out the door and down the sidewalk. Those in it realize that only one item is sold here, always only one, although it alters slightly every day. Because all the tables here are almost always occupied, customers carry their pizzas outside into the road and eat it on the traffic median. Serving pizza by the pie, half pie and slice, this is one of the East Bay's favorite pizza places. Tourists come from all over the world as well, drawn by tales of a worker-owned, hassle-free bakery in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto where mostly organic vegetables, herbs, and cheeses from around the world compose a different meatless artisanal pizza every day. The one-choice policy is awesome if you like surprises, sucks if you hate yam pizza — say — or pear. Arrive on a day when you like its components, and every bite sparkles with flavor. $

Asena

2508 Santa Clara Ave. (at Everett St.), Alameda, 510-521-4100. This venerable Alameda destination is as cozy and friendly as it was when it opened in 1996, and the house fusion-Mediterranean cuisine is still well worth investigating. Crunchy fried artichoke hearts with peppery aioli; phyllo pastries stuffed with feta and fresh dill; grilled chicken with apples, brie, and currants; and tender little gnocchi with porcini mushrooms are among the menu's standards (the lamb-stuffed eggplant can be tough and tasteless, though). Get the dark decadent pot de crème or the fluffy bittersweet blood orange cheesecake for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$$

The Sister's House

[illegible] Hayward, 510-538-[illegible]. There are no [illegible] at this friendly Korean joint, just a hardworking mother-and-daughter team whose specialties include hearty soups, barbecued meats, and a generous array of house-made banchan. Start with a toasty seafood pancake or a steamer full of super-sized dumplings and an addictive soy sesame dipping sauce. Straightforward renditions of *bi bim bop* and garlic-marinated short ribs don't disappoint, but it pays to head off the beaten path with a bowl of roiling, fiery red goat stew (*yum so tang*) or *[illegible] jjigae*, filled with crab, zucchini, and the pleasantly flavor of shepherd's purse greens. $$

R&C

Palestani) $ $$
Pizza Pappas 300 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley,
510-841-7482 (Veggies Organic/Seafood) $$-$$$
Daily's Can't Fail Café [illegible] Hotel St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Cover) $-$$
Kao Veggies Veggies and Deli 558 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-8002
(Deli/Seafood) $
Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable Seafood) $$-$$$
Captain on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-3900 (American/Seafood) $$
Sponges & Fresh Fish Grotto 1811 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-848-7771 (Seafood) $$$
Sacchetto 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-528-5100 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
Tofu Yu 2909 Ninth St., Berkeley 510-204-9090 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$
[illegible] 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-8920 (Deli/German/Austrian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $
Kaplan's 3011 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-8010 (Comfort American) $
[illegible] 10544-10546 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-0870 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9118 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $-$$
Little Ram's 5115 [illegible] Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-0970 (Steak House) $$-$$$
Sycamore 1561 Sycamore Ave., Unit B Hercules, 510-245-0800 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] Parking lot of the 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $
El Tapatio [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-6990 ([illegible]) (Mexican) $
Pho Hoa Thai 12040 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-231-1273 (Vietnamese) $-$$
[illegible] 250 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-1952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$
[illegible] 1506 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5820 (Italian) $$
Saimong Thai 3288 Pierce St., [illegible], Richmond, 510-558-8130 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Taqueria La [illegible] 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2261 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadorian) $
El [illegible] 14001 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-215-7500 (Central American/Salvadoran) $
Thai Son Seafood Restaurant 11850 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-6847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

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WINEAU

Comfort Wines

After a long dry spell, this Wineau longs for the familiar

Not drinking wine was my least favorite thing about pregnancy. I'd hoped that my doctor might have new, unpublicized data that said "Ill effects debunked, drink all you want!" but no such luck. She advised one glass a month, max.

I stuck to that until Month 6, when I had dinner with four doctor friends (including one who was pregnant and another who's an OB-GYN). They railed collectively against the litigation phobia pervasive in their industry and manifest, they claimed, in the no-drinking guidelines for pregnant women. Hmm, food for thought — as was "once a week is fine" (a stranger at a dinner party), "after five months, anything goes" (the woman who cuts my hair), "no harm in once a day" (a colleague), and "how could you be so selfish" (every other commenter on BabyCenter.com). In Month 8, I happened to see another doctor in my practice who, upon learning that I write about wine, said, "Well, I hope you've been drinking during your pregnancy!" The baby, apparently, had had enough of the mixed messages — 48 hours later, out she came.

You might think that after eight months of hand-wringing over "can I" or "can't I," I'd be living it up over here, enjoying exotic varietals and a range of labels to make up for lost time. Instead, thanks to breastfeeding and fatigue, I've gravitated towards medium-bodied, not-too-high-alcohol wines made from Rhône grapes. Comfort wines, let's call them.

The 2005 **MAN Vintners Shiraz** found favor in our household a couple of summers ago, so for **$7.99** the **2007** vintage seemed like a safe bet. This wine had a closed aroma at first, but a day after we opened it, it had blossomed into a mellow red that nevertheless boasted lots of cherry. MAN also makes a **$7.99 Pinotage**, which piqued my curiosity since that's not a grape that often comes cheap. I thought this one was just fine, despite what our Token Winemaker called out as a strongly vegetal aroma of overcooked green beans.

The sleeper hit of my post-pregnancy tippling has been the nonvintage **Chateau Caluge Syrah/Grenache/Mourvedre blend ($7.99)** from Languedoc. This wine is made for Fresh & Easy supermarkets, and it's a delightful blend with strong notes of black fruit and a sophistication that belies its price. In a postpartum haze, we let this one sit too long in our sunny living room and now wonder how much better it might have been if properly stored. We'll happily try another bottle to find out.

Despite my recent affinity for Rhone reds, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a fabulous turkey-friendly Riesling on this Thanksgiving eve. Token Winemaker can't stop gushing about the **2007 Targovishte Riesling ($6.99)** from Bulgaria — an off-dry, crisp, and subtly effervescent wine, he loved for its light fruit, floral, and vegetal notes, and its great balance.

—*Ellen Campbell*

For retail availability, visit EastBayExpress.com

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Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-1462. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Masala Grill 39138 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-791-1100. (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Mirchi Cafe & Masala Pizza 40900 Fremont Blvd. #1, Fremont, 510-623-0500. (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

Ming's Dragon Hot Pot Restaurant 6096 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-793-3898. (Chinese) $$

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200. (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

Shalimar Palace 5986 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8408. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22305 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-7702. (Korean) $$

The [illegible] 22111 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-537-5522. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20615 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-889-8888. (Chinese) $

JJ's Restaurant and Pies 2801 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-886-6017. (Diner) $

The Medicine Show 925 B St., Hayward, 510-538-8731. (American/Diner) $

[illegible] 772 B St., Hayward, 510-583-9344. (California Cuisine/Spanish) $$$

Oakland Korean Restaurant 1292 Davis St., San Leandro, 510-568-4795. (Korean) $-$$

Sam's Super Burger [illegible] Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-278-0339. (American/Diner) $

Thai Satay 1576 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-2545. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Yume Sushi 1117 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-3768. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2115 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-889-8257. (American/Diner) $

Va'a Restaurant 317 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-6601. (Polynesian) $$

LAMORINDA

Mezza Cafe 2 Theatre Sq., Suite 105, Orinda, 925-254-5700. (Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern) $

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

El Jarro Mexican Cafe 3563 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-4000. (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 1012 School St., Moraga, 925-376-5111. (American) $-$$

Ristorante [illegible] 300 Park St., Moraga, 925-381-7062. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3535 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-299-1330. (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Lau's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288. (Chinese/Seafood) $

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400. (American/Breakfast, Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Brazil-Latin/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

D&A Cafe 323 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-6223. (Chinese) $

Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206. (Peruvian/South American) $$

Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288. (Chinese) $

Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-836-4446. (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

Ichiro 431 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-7991. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

[illegible] 2432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-83[illegible]. (Mexican) $$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188. (Chinese) $-$$

Levende East 827 Washington St., Oakland, 510-835-5585. (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Bars) $$-$$$

Oyster Reef 1000 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland, 510-836-2[illegible]. (Seafood) $$$

Ozumo Oakland 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland. (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$$

Shan Dong 328 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2299. (Vietnamese) $

Oakland Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8866. (Chinese) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] St., #101, Oakland, 510-839-2299. (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-6878. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 360 Broadway, Oakland, 510-261-[illegible]. (California Cuisine) $$

Souley Vegan 411 13th St., Oakland, 510-393-3011. (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-763-0829. (California Cuisine) $$

Spices 3 369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8889. (Chinese) $$

[illegible] Market 389 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-1881. (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-6388. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200. (Barbecue) $-$$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Musical Venues) $$$

OAKLAND-EAST

El Centenario 4906 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8006. (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 5106 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-9200. (American/Diner) $

Huong Que Cafe 1238 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-535-8480. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188. (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

[illegible] 833 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-8538. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Nieves Cinco de Mayo 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-533-8206. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] Tea Garden 2230 Livingston St., Oakland, 510-656-4832. (Breakfast/Brunch) $

Old Weang Ping Village 6217 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-8771. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Tacos Michoacan 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0908. (Mexican) $-$$

Pho Hoa Hiep 2205 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-0508. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Hoa Lao 1[illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-451-8886. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-3464. (Central American) $

Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 2638 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4296. (Mexican) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-5762. (Mexican) $

Taqueria Zamorano 4345 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8120. (Mexican) $

Tiki Tom's 390 20th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-8200. (Hawaiian/Caribbean) $$

La Guadalupana 3418 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-1175. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Grégoire 4001B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444. (French) $-$$

Grinders Submarine Sandwiches 3909 Antioch Ct., Oakland, 510-339-3721. (American) $

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658. (Korean) $$

Lo Coco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222. (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-0122. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

Mezze 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Bar & Grill 2417 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1840. (Steak House) $$$

[illegible] 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-1738. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

[illegible] 2011 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-6157. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-2[illegible]. (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 6029 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8083. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-594-1000. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1822. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] 3132 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2900. (Korean) $$

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0801. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007. (Korean) $$

La [illegible] 5000 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8231. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Plaza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5200. (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Marc 49 [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-2100. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bars) $-$$

The [illegible] 4921 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5630. (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] Korean Restaurant 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-584-8300. (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] B.B.Q. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-500-3030. (Korean) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Pyung Hwang Cow House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9547. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 4923 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-3084. (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366. (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] Barbecue House 3900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-5811. (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-588-0100. (Korean) $

Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8081. (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

[illegible] 5[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2268. (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

Dean's Cafe 620 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4222. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$

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R&C

0505. (Steak House) $$$$

Ray's [illegible] 122 W [illegible] St., [illegible] 925-820-8200. (American/Steak House) $$$$

Kiboban Grill 1061-A Market Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-1144. (Asian) $

Lawrence's [illegible] 295-C Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-838-0505. (Barbecue, Tex) $

Masala Indian Bistro 490 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-362-4300. (Indian, Pakistani) $$

McNamara's [illegible] 1400 San Ramon Rd., Ramon. 925-833-0996. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

The Peddle 300 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-299-0484. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Patrick David's Restaurant 416 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville. 925-838-7611. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$$

The Bonanza @ the [illegible] 267 [illegible] Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Red [illegible] Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-734-0307. (American/Barbecue) $

Red [illegible] Cafe 4820 [illegible] Blvd., [illegible] 925-828-8300. (American) $

Sakura 3250 Crow Canyon Pl., #C, San Ramon. 925-277-1028. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Trattoria 590 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon. 925-866-5658. (Italian) $$-$$$

Shiraz 21314 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-828-5558. (Special Cuisine/Persian) $$

Yaqui's @ [illegible] 250 [illegible] Pl., San Ramon. 925-328-0010. (Mexican) $

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Zealot [illegible] [illegible] Plaza, [illegible] 925-855-9000. (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 3490 [illegible] Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-964-1518. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-1234. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Old Bowl 1571 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-287-8118. (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1495 South Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-930-7450. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Revive a [illegible] & Pizzeria 2996 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-941-8505. (Italian, Pizza) $-$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-979-0100. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Ruth's Steak House 1553 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-977-3477. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-944-FISH. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$ ●

Full Reviews Online

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Market [illegible] "Mushroom" [illegible] Potluck [illegible] Thu., Nov. 26, 6-9 p.m., free. Alameda, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-5064, [illegible].com.

[illegible]: Prelude to [illegible] Holiday treats and Peterson's wines, plus crafts available for purchase: stained glass art by Ellen Bryant, jewelry by Michelle [illegible], stockings and scarves by Jan [illegible], quilts by Marla [illegible], and Ken Peterson's barrel stave candle [illegible]. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 28-29, 12-5 p.m., $5. [illegible] Winery, 83 Valecitos Rd., Livermore. 925-000-2297. [illegible].com.

Charles Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolate in production, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-652-4412, CharlesChocolates.com.

Complimentary Thanksgiving Dinner Complimentary dinner to 120 guests and friends from around the Bay Area. Everyone requested to bring 5 cans of food. Thu., Nov. 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. Spice [illegible], 3678 Piedmont St., Oakland. 510-268-0120.

Fruit Carving Jimmy Zhang shows how to make art with fruit on selected Saturdays. [illegible] Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. California through Dec. 31, $58. [illegible] Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-881-4455, [illegible].

Holiday Special Includes purchase of 4 vineyard designate Syrah wines: 2006 Verdes Vignes, 2006 [illegible], 2007 [illegible] Vineyard, 2007 Fort Vineyards, and 2007 Fenaughty Vineyard. Plus an organic chocolate [illegible] from [illegible]. Nov. 28-Dec. 10, $35-$95. A. [illegible] and Goat Winery, 2323 B 4th St., Berkeley. 510-868-9174.

Holiday [illegible] Featuring special vintages and reserve library wines. Nov. 28-29. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2305, WenteVineyards.com.

Holiday Wine Wednesday With [illegible] cheese and a Wednesday wine [illegible] Wed., Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m. JC Cellars, 55 4th St., Oakland. 510-465-5900, JCCellars.com.

Oyster Night Oyster specials plus great Gin presents. 8:30-9:30 p.m., free. Lulu's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 [illegible], Oakland. 510-451-4677, [illegible].com.

Thanksgiving Day [illegible] Buffet Celebrate the holiday with the acclaimed Ritz-Carlton Thanksgiving [illegible] while enjoying a live jazz trio. Thu., Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., $80/adult, $40/child. 415-773-5100. Ritz-Carlton, 600 Stockton St., San Francisco.

Traditional Thanksgiving with Mediterranean Flair Turkey and ten traditional side dishes including pecans and porcini mushroom casserole. Plus pumpkin-ricotta cheesecake. The store will donate a portion of all Thanksgiving proceeds to local [illegible] the Bay Area. Thu., Nov. 26, $68.98 serves 6, or $86.98 for 12, [illegible] to complement your own turkey. A.G. Ferrari Foods, 2095 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2711.

Vegetarian Thanksgiving Dinner Vegetarian dinner, classical vocal concert [illegible], and a special prayer for world peace led by Swami Krishnananda. Thu., Nov. 26, 3 p.m., free. [illegible] 15602 [illegible] Ave., San Leandro. 510-278-7444.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With freshly picked fruits and vegetables, plus food by artisans. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Taylor Center, 15156 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-550-0000, [illegible].com.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Supported [illegible] Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-8104. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150. [illegible].

Kaiser Permanente [illegible] Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser [illegible], 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling [illegible] produce on the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a variety fresh flowers, an organic [illegible] fresh wild fish, herbs and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal Berkeley. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Charles Farmers' Market Sponsored and coordinated by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The market includes certified organic produce from JBF Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led prepared food [illegible] the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info contact Ted at [illegible].org, or call 510-482-1999. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, plus special programs and demos. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and demos. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-6170.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and demos. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley. ●

PICK

Thanksgiving Day Community Meal

Need a free meal? All are welcome at **College Avenue Presbyterian Church's** (5951 College Ave., Oakland) annual **Thanksgiving Day Community Meal** on Thursday Nov. 26. Don't need a free meal? All are welcome to donate food and to volunteer. Tasks include setup, preparation, serving, cleanup, and more. Founded in 1890, the church hosts weekly services and meals for the homeless. Call in advance to volunteer. 11 a.m., free. CAPCChurch.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

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Whatever you're grateful for and however you plan on giving thanks this year celebrate with some roasted local vegetables, heirloom turkey from Sonoma, or from-scratch pumpkin pie. Pick up a copy of the Eater's Guide to Local Food or search our online listings for growers and grocers in your area. Get ready to set your table for a local feast!

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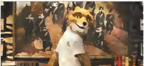
MOVIES

FOXED OUT OF THEIR JOCKS

Fantastic Mr. Fox dazzles
Red Cliff thrills, obscurely
Ninja Assassin slips on a banana peel

By Kelly Vance



The stop-motion animation in *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is all hyper-detailed; you'll need to see it more than once.

After watching Wes Anderson's exhilarating animated fable *Fantastic Mr. Fox* you'll secretly want to be Mr. Fox. And why not? Perfectly poised and fashionably slim, he's the slickest thing in the countryside, from his smartly tailored suit to the corners of his glib, chicken-licking mouth.

This year at the movies has seen more than its share of remarkable animated features, but filmmaker Anderson's adaptation of Roald Dahl's putative children's story — about a clever furry fellow pulling off the proverbial one last job — is something special. Its stop-motion animation is so lifelike and hyper-detailed, you'll probably need to see it more than once. The screenplay, by Anderson and frequent collaborator Noah Baumbach, captures the precise mixture of youthful top-of-the-world cockiness and grim clumsy dread that differentiates the stories we keep with us for the rest of our lives from the ones we forget about overnight.

The character setting is an elaborate two-parter. First there are the amazing puppets designed by Anderson and fabricated by Mackinnon & Saunders, the English company that also worked on *Coraline*, *Corpse Bride*, and *Chicken Run*. But then comes Anderson's blue-chip cast of voices: George Clooney as Mr. Fox, Meryl Streep as his wife Felicity, Jason Schwartzman as his son Ash, Anderson stalwart Bill Murray as Badger the lawyer, Eric Chase Anderson as Mr. Fox's athletic nephew Kristofferson Silverfox; Willem Dafoe as Rat; and Owen Wilson as Coach Skip. Actors Michael Gambon (in the role of Bean), Robin Hurlstone (Boggis), and Hugo Guinness (Bunce) portray the three mean farmers whose chicken roosts and larders represent a challenge Mr. Fox just cannot resist.

The idea is that Mr. Fox, semiretired from raiding henhouses and now the author of the "Fox About Town" column in the local alt weekly, is driven to return to his old profligate ways, partly out of pride, but also because he's annoyed that his family's home life is constantly being disrupted by angry humans. "I don't want to live in a hole anymore," declares Mr. Fox. Time to get back to work. Fox and his friends will plunder Boggis, Bunce, and Bean's insanely well guarded farms for the sport of it.

When the farmers lash back ferociously (they're voiced by English actors, the animals by Americans), Fox takes it in stride. After all, as a varmint he's been hunted and hounded his entire life. No point getting bent out of shape about that. Fox is an outlaw by choice, not by necessity, and his transgressions are driven as much by a sense of fun as by hunger. He, Kristofferson, and misunderstood son Ash never stop playing fox tricks on each other. The whack-bat games, flaming pinecones, and terrible tractors pop up incessantly.

Fantastic Mr. Fox is smart and handsome enough to trigger an Andersonian critical reevaluation. It's as if in this whimsical expansion of Dahl's animal story Anderson has finally discovered the ideal vehicle for his quirks. All those overly declamatory preppie characters, full of righteous fury and bruised sensibilities who got on our nerves in *Rushmore* and *The Darjeeling Limited* have now been transformed into otters, weasels, and beavers. What a relief to be able to look at a muskrat, for instance, instead of Owen Wilson's face.

The story, splendidly slender and ripe for interpretation, is probably better enjoyed on the eye-candy level. Dapper shopaholic Anderson, famously a collector of thingamabobs, fills every conceivable space with bric-a-brac. His customary needle-drop music-track playlist is in tip-top shape, heavy with Burl Ives for the rural mess, but also boasting Georges Delerue, Art Tatum, the Beach Boys, the Bobby Fuller Four, and "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" by the Wellingtons — retro with a vengeance. The "cuss" dialogue placeholders — as in "What the cuss?" or "Cluster-cuss" — are also an inspired touch. But what really thrills us in Anderson's foxy bedtime story is the notion that some spirits are just plain untamable. Stealthy, unflappable Mr. Fox is a rebel without a tail.

Fantastic Mr. Fox
Directed by Wes Anderson. With the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, and Jason Schwartzman. Opens Wednesday

Red Cliff
Directed by John Woo. With Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Zhang Fengyi, and Chang Chen. Opens Wednesday

Ninja Assassin
Directed by James McTeigue. With Rain and Naomie Harris. Opens Wednesday

With the nocturnal epic *Red Cliff*, celebrated Hong Kong and Hollywood action director John Woo (he made *Mission: Impossible II*, *Face/Off*, and *The Killer*, among many others) wanders into unaccustomed turf. The cast-of-thousands battle wagon — reportedly the most expensive film ever produced in Asia — is one of those sweep-of-history projects that will probably mystify those unfamiliar with the Chinese national legend. For American audiences, sorting out the third-century-CE struggles between the Northern Chinese Han dynasty and the warlords of the South is a little like asking an audience in Wuhan to appreciate the difference between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. Better to focus on the sword fights and cavalry charges, of which there are many.

Hong Kong superstar Tony Leung Chiu Wai, star of Woo's *Hard Boiled*, plays Zhou Yu, a Southern warrior chief in league with Sun Quan (Chang Chen) and Liu Bei (You Yong) against the invading armies of General Cao Cao (Zhang Fengyi). Centerpiece of the two-and-a-half-hour pic is a magnificently choreographed naval battle at the title locale, complete with fire catapults, interlocking ships, espionage, a typhus epidemic, famous storms of arrows, and more kung-fu than the last dozen HK cop flicks combined. It's noteworthy that women play key strategy roles in the conflict, especially one Xiao Qiao, played by Chiling Lin. All of the above return in the sequel, *Red Cliff II*, which is probably available this afternoon on DVD for five dollars in Chinatowns everywhere.

Nothing hard to fathom about *Ninja Assassin*. Director James McTeigue's slice-and-dicer focuses on Raizo (played by South Korean pop singer Rain, aka Jung Ji-hoon), a steely young man who rebels against his ninja clan over a female Europol agent named Mika Coretti (Naomie Harris), occasioning rivers of blood but only a trickle of believable action.

Nice to see Eighties/Nineties action hero Sho Kosugi (*Nine Deaths of the Ninja*, *Pray for Death*) finding work as the lead bad guy, Ozunu of the Clan of Black Sand — but that doesn't excuse the awful writing ("Let this death be remembered for a thousand years") in this meathead exercise. It's like a Tom & Jerry cartoon with realistic opened arteries instead of comical toon injuries. Rain sets a world record for scar tissue as he depletes the world's ninja supply by two-thirds, pausing only to engage in sweaty, bare-chested calisthenics. Once upon a time, McTeigue made *V for Vendetta*, a thinking-person's revenge melodrama. He's paying for that with *Ninja Assassin*. ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/jx/fox

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Fantastic Mr. Fox Angry farmers attempt to do away with the fox who's been stealing their chickens in this animated adventure based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Directed by Wes Anderson and featuring the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, and Bill Murray (87 min.). BS, GL, RA, RH, RCE

Ninja Assassin Loads of [illegible] but only a trickle of believable action. Korean pop singer Rain stars as Raizo, [illegible] of the Black Sand clan of ninjas, whose [illegible] against [illegible] loads of [illegible] bodies, fountains of [illegible] and [illegible]. Sample dialogue by writers Matthew Sand and J. Michael Straczynski: "Let this death be remembered for a thousand years." The one bright spot is the presence of longtime martial arts hero Sho Kosugi as the evil clan chieftain [illegible]. Otherwise, forget it. Directed by James McTeigue (*V for Vendetta*) (99 min.). (K.V.) BC, [illegible]

Oh My God May induce drowsiness. [illegible] documentary zips all over the world, accompanied by dubious world-music music, to show the variety of human religious expression. Filmmaker Peter Rodger mostly [illegible] Godfrey Reggio's [illegible] [illegible] from the Eighties, although the [illegible] footage [illegible] expanded into a separate film. Celebrity people [illegible], Ringo Starr, Bob Geldof, Princess [illegible], and [illegible] contribute much. God, what a waste of time (113 min.). (K.V.) S

Showtimes Online
Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Old Dogs A total train wreck, this patronizing comedy from Walt Becker (*Wild Hogs*) stars John Travolta and Robin Williams as two businessmen, both pushing sixty, who get stuck babysitting a pair of seven-year-old twins. Most of the [illegible] revolve around old people, gay people, and almost bodily functions. [illegible] which a medication mix-up leaves Travolta's smile [illegible] and a [illegible]. It's an unfortunate [illegible] of the [illegible] in order to keep working in garbage like this (88 min.). (A.G.) BC, BP, CCC, DA, CRC, RA, RH, FL, RCE, UA [illegible]

Red Cliff Those [illegible] with ancient Chinese history may be unclear on the whys and wherefores of the legendary third-century-CE campaign by General Cao Cao's Northern imperial forces against [illegible] Liu Bei, Sun Quan, and Zhou Yu (played by Hong Kong superstar Tony Leung Chiu Wai) [illegible] no reason we can't enjoy the spirited swordplay by director John Woo and his cast of thousands. It's almost literally one long battle scene, [illegible] up by intrigue and espionage and [illegible] in an epic [illegible] engagement at the title locale with flaming ships and arrows by the millions. Billed as the most expensive movie ever [illegible] in Asia, [illegible] Chinese [illegible] showcases the country's

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each listing. **AL** = Albany; **ALC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BB** = Blackhawk; **BR** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = Bay Street; **CA** = California; **CAPH** = CinemArts Pleasant Hill; **CB** = Century Bayfair; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CAPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Crow Canyon; **CSC** = [illegible] Square and Cinema; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Jack London; **LP** = La Paloma; **[illegible]** = [illegible]; **[illegible]** = [illegible]; **[illegible]** = [illegible]; **RA** = Regal Antioch; **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = Rheem Theater; **S** = Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano

MIT

economic might as much as it does the storytelling powers of mainland film. Screenplay by Wan and three other writers. Costarring Zhang Fengyi, Chang Chen, You Yong, and Chang Lin (148 min.). (K.V.) [illegible]

The Road Monotonous allegorical drama drops us and the gray aftermath of an earthquake/fire/big "freakout" with a numbed-out father (Viggo Mortensen) and his cowering young son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) roaming the ruined countryside looking for food and tangling with other survivors. Says here Cormac McCarthy won a [illegible] for the novel this is based on. Why? There's nothing in the film version — [illegible] by John Hillcoat from Joe Penhall's adaptation of the novel — that hasn't already been done [illegible] and George [illegible]. Another question: Is there a clause in Mortensen's contract that says he has to appear naked in every film? [illegible] the moviemakers [illegible] to save [illegible] and [illegible] with and one. Costarring Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce, and Charlize Theron (113 min.). (K.V.) CA, PM

ONGOING

(Untitled) Satiric, totally urban comedy [illegible] in an art world with great vigor, as a pair of starving, pretentious brothers — one an avant-garde composer (Adam Goldberg, [illegible]), the other (Eion Bailey) a painter of [illegible] — vie for the [illegible] Amanda of a trendy gallery owner (Marley Shelton). Bay Area-based filmmaker Jonathan Parker (Bartleby) fills all the [illegible] with his screenplay (written with Catherine di Napoli), from [illegible] to [illegible] (Zak Orth) to [illegible] as the [illegible] Touch of [illegible] *Art School Confidential* going for its [illegible] (96 min.) (K.V.) CAPH S

2012 [illegible] Emmerich's [illegible] is a CGI orgy of exploding [illegible], collapsing landmasses, volcanoes, tidal waves, mega-fireballs and screaming people — with John Cusack as a writer with [illegible] to the Himalayas while the world crashes down [illegible]. The visuals are [illegible] for fifteen minutes or so (out of the two-and-a-half-hour running time), and they keep coming, but the story boils down to the usual Emmerich [illegible], pieces of *The Day After Tomorrow* here, a little *Poseidon Adventure* there, good guys, and [illegible]. [illegible] Cusack are Amanda Peet as his ex, Woody Harrelson as an environmental nut, Danny Glover as President of the U.S., Thandie Newton as the First Daughter, [illegible] as [illegible], Oliver Platt as government [illegible], and Zlatko Buric as a fat Russian gazillionaire trying to buy his way out of the apocalypse. Not a total disaster, just a slight [illegible]. Written by Emmerich and Harald Kloser (158 min.). (K.V.) [illegible]

A Serious Man The Coen Bros. return to the Minneapolis metro area, but this time they're making fun of Jewish Americans instead of Swedes (as in *Fargo*). The dry, aftermath Middle-American plight of timid physics professor and suburban [illegible] Larry Gopnik (a [illegible] Michael Stuhlbarg) piles insult on top of indignity, as everything in the movie goes wrong for Larry — and his only recourse is to consult a series of condescending, incomprehensible religious leaders. There's a joke in here somewhere and it's on Larry, [illegible] left in front of us. As usual in a Coen film, the [illegible] work is magnificent and the character parts are beautifully played (by Sari Lennick, Fred Melamed, [illegible] Kind, and Aaron Wolff). But, also as usual, there's something [illegible] about it, as if [illegible] Coen were [illegible] "American stereotypes of the '60s" for a Ph.D. [illegible]. Is Larry a schlemiel, a [illegible], or a schmendrik, and who cares? (105 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, CA, PM

Ninja Assassin

Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani Ranbir Kapoor and Katrina Kaif star in [illegible] romantic comedy directed and co-written by Rajkumar Santoshi (*Halla Bol*). In Hindi with English subtitles. NB

An Education A [illegible] middle-class [illegible] high-school student named Jenny (in a magnetic performance by Carey Mulligan) falls head over heels for an urbane, generous older man named David (Peter Sarsgaard, with a veneer of charm) and takes off with him to the opera, a trip to Paris, etc., circa 1961. But there's something a bit dodgy about David and his friends. Danish [illegible] director Lone Scherfig (she did *Italian for Beginners*) tells [illegible] tale with a [illegible] and verbal style and lets her able cast do the rest, led by Mulligan and Sarsgaard. Alfred Molina as Jenny's [illegible] father, Emma Thompson and Olivia Williams as her [illegible] teachers, and Sally Hawkins in a quick, [illegible] as the older woman. The smart screenplay was adapted by journalist/novelist Nick Hornby from a memoir by journalist Lynn Barber (95 min.). (K.V.) CAPH, AL, PM, RA, UAEB

Astro Boy Osamu Tezuka's groundbreaking Sixties anime series gets a stylish CGI update in this sci-fi animation. A scientist (given voice by Nicolas Cage), distraught over the death of his son (Freddie Highmore), re-creates the boy as a 'bot' powered by a blue core of "good" energy. Like the [illegible], the film considers humanity's dependence on and fear of automation, though this new [illegible] also has an apocalyptic theme, as a craven politician foments war by harnessing the "bad" energy of a red core [illegible]. The lighting, production design, and character modeling are [illegible], and [illegible] David Bowers (*Flushed Away*) references *Frankenstein*, *WALL-E*, *Transformers*, and even Abraham and Isaac, and the TV series, primitive though it was, [illegible] (94 min.) (A.G.) BC, RA, NB, UAEB

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans [illegible]

PICK OF THE WEEK
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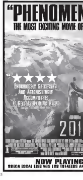

"PHENOMENAL!
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Cage stomps around like a crack-addicted Frankenstein with gambling and [illegible] troubles in [illegible]. Herzog's nutty modern-day noir, the story of a naughty cop in post-Katrina New Orleans. Is this the beginning of a new arc in Cage Land for Herzog, the [illegible] of hikes and documentaries? Let's hope so. Following Cage like a Greek chorus of [illegible] are Eva Mendes as his [illegible] girlfriend, Xzibit as a [illegible], Brad Dourif as a bookie, Jennifer Coolidge as a [illegible], and [illegible] Shannon and an [illegible] Val Kilmer as fellow police. Also, an alligator, a snake, a dog, and a pair of iguanas. But Cage's rogue direction is the meanest animal of all. A harrowing comedy [illegible] Cage [illegible] since his [illegible] in *Kiss of Death* (121 min.) (KS) CS

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction book by Michael Lewis, the current [illegible] tells the story of Michael Oher, a gigantic black teenager from impoverished West Memphis who was accepted as a charity case by a local Christian academy and taken in and ultimately adopted by a wealthy white family. He became an All-America offensive lineman who was drafted in the first round this year by the Baltimore Ravens. The story is inspiring and involves sports, but to call it an inspirational sports story would be wrong; the real center is Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a fine performance), the strong-willed mother whose love and generosity helped turn a mute, hopeless boy with no social or academic skills into a functioning young man with a promising future. Some will call the movie totally paternalistic, and they may well be right, but as a fable about the power of giving, it hits pretty hard. John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*) adapted his own script, with Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, and Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher (125 min.) [illegible] AMC 55, BC, BP, CCC, CL, CRC, RA, RV, [illegible], RCC, UAR.

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day The best that *The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* does, at all, is live up to the cult following that's grown up around *The Boondock Saints* original — which, despite said cult following, was not always very good. This sequel improves upon it only incrementally. Our fightin' Irish avengers, Connor (Sean Patrick Flanery) and Murphy MacManus (Norman Reedus), start the movie hiding out as sheepherders in the Motherland, but are summoned back to Boston when a friend's killing is pegged on them. Their return guarantees audiences plenty of racist, misogynistic, sacrilegious jokes, as well as more bullets, bad slow-mo shoot-outs, and religious iconography that stopped being offensive when everyone started doing it. Basically, a low-rent Quentin Tarantino knock-off (115 min.) CIL, RPN, CH, CUC

The Box It's 1976, and a Virginia couple with an arsenal of good looks (Cameron Diaz, James Marsden) is given a box by a scary, deformed gentleman named Arlington Steward (Frank Langella). As Steward explains, the box has a button that, when pushed, will grant the couple a million dollars — but will also cause the death of a complete stranger. Yikes, moral dilemma, right? It's the kind of thought-provoking cult story that [illegible] Richard Kelly (*Donnie Darko*) revels in — but, for once, the [illegible] Kelly [illegible] comes with an effective, even satisfying resolution (115 min.) (JC) R BO

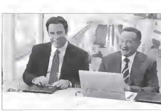
Bright Star Filmmaker Jane Campion [illegible] to show the life and times of English poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw) and his affection for Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish), whom [illegible] with only a maximum of "love handles" to help 21st-century audiences understand the Romantic Era. The effort falls a few yards short. Keats is a [illegible] with "no living and no income" who sits around with his foppish friend Charles Armitage Brown (overacting Paul Schneider) composing odes. Fanny is a headstrong but impressive "seamstress" whose on-again, off-again canoodlings with Keats take place amid gorgeous bucolic imagery framed by Greig Fraser. The effect is cool and dry where it should be joyously [illegible]. They make romantic drama the old-fashioned way: they film it. Written and directed by Campion (*The Piano*) in her first full-length feature since 2003's *In the Cut* (119 min.) (KV) BCC

Coco Before Chanel [illegible] Romantic the least interesting portion of French fashion designer Coco Chanel's life, the years in which she invented short hair for women, mannish jackets, the little black [illegible], etc., while playing around as the kept woman of a rich sportsman. Further hampering things is the way actor Audrey Tautou characterizes Chanel: dour, overly industrious, humorless, with more than her share of being a backstabber. There's more drama in the last five minutes of director/writer Anne Fontaine's overlong bio drama — a montage sequence of Chanel founding her fashion house and rising to fame — than there is in the preceding 110 minutes. For couples [illegible] only (110 minutes) (KV) S

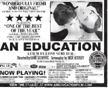
Couples Retreat Thirteen years ago, Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau were the definition of Hollywood cool in *Swingers*. In *Couples Retreat*, which they wrote together, the pair is approaching middle age, pudgy, and anything but cool. Think of the movie as what happens to two guys who were really money but made too much money. That's the only way to explain this by-the-numbers romantic comedy about four couples in various states of dysfunction who travel to the titular tropical resort for a little R&R and [illegible] only for three of the couples — relationship therapy. Predictable character set-ups lead to faux-drama, a smattering of PG-13 situations and a large island man's [illegible]. Vaughn and Favreau, joined with a cast that includes Jason Bateman and Kristen Davis, [illegible] (107 min.) (CH) CWC

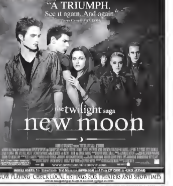
De Dana Dan Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Sunil Shetty, and Paresh Rawal star in this comedic drama about the resort and [illegible] can offer, directed by Priyadarshan. In Hindi with English subtitles. NR

Disney's A Christmas Carol Robert Zemeckis applies the 3-D motion-capture animation of *Beowulf* (2007) and *The Polar Express* (2004) to the well-worn Charles Dickens tale (umpteen screen adaptations and counting). The process uses live actors with sensors attached to their bodies and faces so that animators can record their movements and computers can elaborate on it. As a result, the animations are often overacting in their new perfection; the facial expressions here are more precise than ever but not human, as if Zemeckis were following a square root into infinity. The real horrible bodies are the more fantastic figures: Jacob Marley [illegible] as a glow-in-the-dark monster, and [illegible] and Want, [illegible] from the [illegible] of the Ghost of Christmas Present, [illegible] of Victorian [illegible]. Zemeckis [illegible] all the story's charm, but its pathos has always been the real challenge, and it mostly eludes him. With Jim Carrey (as Scrooge and the Christmas spirits) and Gary Oldman (as Marley



Old Dogs.





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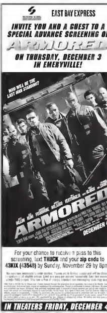

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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4!

MOT

and Bob Crumb) (99 min.). (U.) ATC, BS, DC, BP, DCC, RA, RH, SAB

The Fourth Kind Alaskan psychologist Milla Jovovich [illegible] that three of their patients have been [illegible] by extraterrestrial kidnappers. But local [illegible] Will Patton doesn't buy it, even after Jovovich's blond daughter vanishes into thin air. Press materials for this static, talky psychodrama [illegible] it to be "simulated" [illegible] before it, but writer/director Olatunde Osunsanmi's big [illegible] invention turns out to be the [illegible] pairing of patently bogus "archival" black-and-white video that [illegible] alleged abductees undergoing hypnosis and [illegible] "reenactments" of same. Ultimately it's up to you, the viewer, to decide which is more boring (98 min.) (C.J.) [illegible]

Jail A dark and dramatic Bollywood cinema from director Madhur Bhandarkar (Fashion, Traffic Signal). Starring Neil Nitin Mukesh and Mugdha Godse. In Hindi with English subtitles. [illegible]

Law Abiding Citizen Remember Death Wish? And what if Charles Bronson went all Saw on the hoodlums who killed his wife and raped his daughter? That's the basic set-up of *Law Abiding Citizen*, a revenge flick that makes about as much sense as nonsense. Gerard Butler plays Bronson-esque Clyde Shelton; after his wife and daughter are murdered, he begins a decade-long plan for vengeance against the perps and the self-serving prosecutor (Jamie Foxx) who used plea bargains and reduced sentences to get his conviction. All this despite the fact that Shelton has already been locked up for killing one of his family's killers. How is the righteous sociopath doing it? Well, that's the nonsensical part of the movie that kinda negates the entertaining parts. [illegible] (108 min.) (C.H.) [illegible]

London Dreams Childhood friends Arjun and [illegible] (Ajay Devgan and Salman Khan) travel from their small village in India to Wembley, England and become rock stars. In Hindi with English subtitles. [illegible]

The Maid (La nana) Raquel, the middle-aged, long-time servant of a large, prosperous household in Santiago, Chile, appears to be heading for some sort of breakdown as the film opens. [illegible] makes us wait for the explanation [illegible] "the family" and a succession of "helper" [illegible] Catalina Saavedra. She [illegible] in the lead role, with wonderful support by Claudia Celedon as the lady of the house and [illegible] as a fellow maid. A triumph of characterization. (95 min.) (K.V.) S

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The Men Who Stare at Goats George Clooney stars in yet another satire of the military-industrial complex — a sloppily written, marginally humorous service comedy about the US Army's [illegible] to field a battalion of psychic warriors, "super soldiers," to conquer the [illegible] of Iraq. Peter Straughan's screenplay (adapted from a book and TV show by Jon Ronson) never really gets its [illegible] Not even the presence of Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, and Ewan McGregor as fellow "warrior monks" (Bridges and Spacey) and a wide-eyed newspaper reporter (McGregor). Final score: Goats 8, Actors 0. Directed by Grant Heslov (93 min.) (K.V.) ATC, CWC, CR, CEPR, CN, CDC, CAPN, CH, PH, [illegible] RH, SAB

The Messenger After being wounded in Iraq, a valorous but emotionally damaged soldier (Ben Foster) returns to the States, where the army [illegible] assigns to him the wrenching duty of notifying families and spouses that their loved ones have died in combat. The scenes of him and his [illegible] (Woody Harrelson) showing up at people's doorsteps [illegible] *Homicide: Life on the Street* [illegible]. But whenever writer-director Oren Moverman moves past these moments [illegible] the lives of the two soldiers, the movie [illegible] romance. [illegible] Samantha Morton, [illegible] and Steve Buscemi (105 min.) (J.J.) R

Michael Jackson's This Is It Compiled from [illegible] footage for an upcoming comeback [illegible], *This Is It* moves as a [illegible] goodbye to the King of Pop [illegible]. Director Kenny Ortega has [illegible] together a [illegible] look at the events leading up to Michael Jackson's death, and the result, while [illegible], proves that Jackson still had it, and that he was going to deliver on his guarantee that the concert [illegible] there were going to be 50 [illegible]. *This Is It* is as [illegible] produced entertainment as the concert-that-never-was [illegible] (112 min.) (C.H.) ATC, BS, BC, BP, [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history [illegible] and most importantly mysteries [illegible] ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Pirate Radio For people who can never get enough '60s rock on the soundtrack, the film event of the year. But practically anyone else can find a laugh in the antics of a crew of radio deejays blasting the Kinks, Who, Troggs, Turtles, [illegible] Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. to English [illegible] from a ship [illegible] in the North Sea. On board are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and Tom Sturridge among the deejays, with [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the [illegible] government minister [illegible] to shut them down, and Emma Thompson as somebody's mod mum. It's a very nerdy [illegible] on the high seas, directed with [illegible] glee by Richard Curtis (*Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) from his own screenplay [illegible] *The Boat That Rocked* (135 min.) (K.V.) PM, RH, RCT, SAB

Planet 51 The inhabitants of the planet Glipforg are mostly green-faced, plastic-skinned [illegible] of friendly small-town Americans from the 1950s [illegible] or is it the Sixties? So when NASA astronaut Chuck Baker (voice of Dwayne Johnson) lands on an exploration mission with his total flower he

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Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans

doesn't have far to go to convince them that he's not a marauding "Humaniac" intent on harvesting their brains. This non-threatening animated comedy, a Spanish-UK co-prod directed by Jorge Blanco, Javier Abad, and Marcos Martinez, plays best to kids under ten. Also among the voices: Jessica Biel, Justin Long, Gary Oldman, and John Cleese (91 min.) [illegible]

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire Urban horror story turned into nail-biting character study with a dollop of redemption thrown in. Newcomer Gabourey Sidibe acts with her whole body and seemingly her entire being as Precious Jones, a Harlem teenager, circa 1987, who suffers all the slings and arrows two monstrously abusive parents can hurl at her. Though ill fed, Precious [illegible] from monolithically unreadable to [illegible] to determined – a remarkable transformation. Director Lee Daniels (Shadowboxer), working from Geoffrey Fletcher's adaptation of author Sapphire's young-adult novel, doesn't spare us the details of Precious' humiliations, but he doesn't dwell on the upside, either. Fine character support by Mo'Nique as the monster mother, Paula Patton as [illegible], and Mariah Carey unrecognizable as a welfare officer (110 min.) [illegible]

Solaroma The story of everyone's [illegible] burning ball of gas. (CSC)

To Be an Astronaut Wonder what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off (43 min.) (CSC)

The Twilight Saga: New Moon Second installment of the teenage vampire romance franchise branches out into "Dracula vs. the Wolf Man" territory. As soon as haunted tween Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) breaks up with her vampire boyfriend Edward (Robert Pattinson), she [illegible] a beefy local werewolf (Taylor Lautner). Much howling ensues. Director Chris Weitz opts for gothic splendor despite the Anne Rice-meets-John Hughes framework and Melissa Rosenberg's frequently funny dialogue (based on Stephenie Meyer's novel). The movie thinks it's mythology. Within the genre context, Stewart's performance [illegible]. Also with Ashley Greene, Dakota Fanning, and Michael Sheen, as a foppish older vamp (130 min.) [illegible]

Where the Wild Things Are Spike Jonze (Being John Malkovich, Adaptation) directed this dark rhapsody based on the book of the same name by Maurice Sendak. Dave Eggers co-wrote the screenplay. RA, UAB

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe This worthwhile documentary profile of the late Kunstler, the epitome of the radical leftist lawyer, was made by his daughters Emily and Sarah Kunstler – partly to celebrate the life and career of their father and partly to restate his commitment to standing up against injustice despite heavy odds. Among the underdogs he defended in court: the Chicago 8, Native American [illegible] defendants, and gangster John Gotti. Nice [illegible] of home movies and period news footage (90 min.) [illegible]

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Laura (88 min., 1944; Otto Preminger: Anatomy of a Movie (PFA, 7:00)

Fallen Angel (98 min., 1945; Otto Preminger: Anatomy of a Movie (PFA, 8:50)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Stromboli (107 min., 1949; Woman's Face: Ingrid Bergman in Europe (PFA, 6:30)

Mon Oncle d'Amérique (125 min., 1980; In Time: The Films of Alain Resnais (PFA, 8:40)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Europa '51 (110 min., 1952; Woman's Face: Ingrid Bergman in Europe (PFA, 3:00)

Daisy Kenyon (99 min., 1947; Otto Preminger: Anatomy of a Movie (PFA, 5:30)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Il Compleanno (98 min., 2009; Alcatraz Visions (PFA, 8:20)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Anatomy of a Murder (160 min., 1959; Introduced by Carol Clover. Otto Preminger: Anatomy of a Movie (PFA, 8:00)

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HARD-CORE TROUBADOUR

Tom Russell eschews modern indie rock's emasculated songwriting.

By [illegible] Keane

Tom Russell

Old school country-folk beatnik-cowboy singer/songwriter Tom Russell holds a certain measure of respect for the Southwest indie-rock scene, especially younger artists who have recently emerged from Tucson's Wavelab Studio with killer tunes and classic albums — artists like Calexico, Neko Case, DeVotchKa and Los Lonely Boys.

Why else would Russell hole up in producer Craig Schumacher's sonic lair to record what critics are calling the El Paso legend's best album to date?

Throughout *Blood and Candle Smoke*, Schumacher applies his distinctive touch, largely eschewing the straight-on Tex-Mex format of Russell's previous efforts in favor of rich, world music instrumentation — everything from Nigerian palm-wine guitar to the Oshogbo Orphan Choir.

Don't expect a reduction of testicular fortitude in Russell's lyrics and delivery, though. His muse is never quiet, his worldview is cracked, intriguing, as are his characters, like the broken soul in "Darkness Visible," who notes, *This road is dark/when you only have one headlight*.

"[Indie-rock] voices have become wimpy and so has the songwriting," Russell, 56, said matter-of-factly, prompted by the question: Where have all the real men singer/songwriters gone, and why doesn't indie rock offer any?

"It's that whole I-don't-mean-to-be-offensive thing," Russell explained. "The pleasers don't hit my school of songwriting. Like the Iron and Wine guy — he doesn't seem sure of himself and writes his lyrics in circles so you can't tell what he's saying exactly. Today women want their men to be like that. I think, creatively, everyone's been emasculated in this country. It's not about gender, but about hard-core songwriting. On the positive side, it's sonically compelling. The indie-rock scene is creating interesting stuff. On this new record I tried to combine great songwriting with what these people are doing in Tucson."

Although he's recorded 25 celebrated albums, made fans out of peers like Johnny Cash and Dave Alvin, and been recognized as one of America's greatest living songwriters, it wasn't until 2006's *Love and Fear* that Russell reached a turning point. His songs became edgier, more personal. There was, for instance, the song "Stealing Electricity," which uses the image of a "Mexican dude" hanging dead from a telephone pole as a metaphor for the heart's voltage.

"That song still draws a lot of response from people who think it's not politically correct," he said. "Even my daughter said I needed to say Mexican man. Political correctness has killed this country. I'm not a racist, but I know what works for me in a song."

If Russell sounds like he belongs to an older, more crotchety generation, you might be right — except he's also capable of writing the loveliest of love songs, baring his heart to his wife in "Finding You." Or consider the mariachi-based elegy to Lady Blue ("Nina Simone"), in which Russell recounts hearing her voice on the jukebox for the first time while working in San Cristóbal, Mexico. He sings: *And I was so lost down there,/Out of love and walking alone/But walking beside me was Nina Simone.*

Indeed, such vulnerable moments provide tonic for what's otherwise a dark, apocalyptic-minded album. The lyrics in "Santa Ana Wind," for instance, are scarier than much of what they today call death-metal music, warning of an "ill-intentioned" current that begins as *a wisp of dust, then a whisper, then a curse*. "American Rivers" works a similar vein, chronicling environmental destruction: *Their figurative old arteries so clogged and defiled/No open-heart miracle will turn them back wild*.

Does Russell think the end of nature — or the end of man — is near?

"With Santa Ana Wind, I was reading a lot of Joan Didion at the time, and she writes about an evil wind blowing across California, causing people to do bad things," Russell revealed, referring to the author's essay collection *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*. "With American Rivers, I'm referencing cultural decay, only I'm putting it in environmental terms. I'm not a super-environmentalist, but I'll take a shot where I feel it's appropriate."

Speaking of literary endeavors, there's the high quality of Russell's lyrics and the way they sit on the page perfectly, as if composed in the same manner as verse.

"That's subliminal and just comes from writing for so long," he admitted. "Dylan's lyrics look good, too. Mine are written to sing well. If they sing well, then they'll have an edited feel or appearance to them. I've been singing these songs (from *Blood and Candle Smoke*) over and over again in my hacienda, polishing them for four years. So, yeah, they're going to look good on paper. If a song is truly great, you can pick up any guitar and sing it, and it will move people." ■

Show Details
Tom Russell plays the Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. $22.50-$23.50. FreightandSalvage.org.

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/go/troubadour

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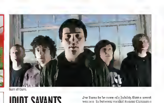
Born of Osiris.

IDIOT SAVANTS

Who cares that Born of Osiris doesn't know Danzig? It's too busy pushing deathcore into new territory

By [illegible] Keene

When a very popular online metal magazine interviews your band and your bass player confesses — or more accurately brags — that he's never heard of Glenn Danzig, you have to expect some negative reactions in the comments section. Of course, when your band is Chicago-bred metalcore act Born of Osiris, and your debut full-length *A Higher Place* rockets into position No. 73 in the Billboard 200, your profile might be raised a bit, drawing to the scene of the crime all kinds of pissed-off music fans who've never even heard of you. Well that's exactly happened with the poor lads in Born of Osiris.

Even the band's fans seemed to scratch their heads. After all, how can guys who play such complex, encyclopedic and mind-blowing music be so ignorant of its history? Indeed, Born of Osiris walks the finest of lines between supersize technical death metal and epic, cosmic-powered prog-rock. So how could the band claim with a straight face to have avoided the fellow responsible for the Misfits, arguably one of the most influential American punk bands of all time? Was it a joke done to irritate punks?

"Not at all. Our bassist David [Darocha] honestly didn't know," Born of Osiris guitarist Lee McKinney laughed during a recent interview. "Personally, I was very much into punk growing up, and I have always loved Danzig. But our bassist ... well, he had never heard of the man or his music. And I can understand the insane reaction. Danzig has a real place in people's hearts. He's got a song in *Guitar Hero II* and we were playing it on the bus the other day. Our bassist learns quickly, because he instantly recognized it. Hey, that's Danzig, isn't it, guys."

Show Details
Born of Osiris plays the Warfield Theatre (982 Market St., San Francisco) on Friday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m., $26, $30. TheWarfieldTheatre.com

Now that one of the best and brightest bands in extreme music is being educated on music courtesy of a video game, there won't be any obstacles in the way of achieving greatness. Unless you consider Born of Osiris keyboardist Joe Buras to be more of a liability than a secret weapon. In between vocalist Ronnie Canizaro's mid-range growl and drummer Cameron Losch's devastating breakdowns, Buras finds enough space to get all Rick Wakeman (that's the Yes keyboardist, in case you don't know) on listeners' ears, with sweeping, cinematic runs that add whole new dimensions to the average metalcore formula. Indeed, more than one critic has characterized the approach as "Danny Elfmanesque."

"The Elfman comparison is always interesting," said McKinney. "Actually, it's our drummer Cameron who's the big-time Elfman fan," McKinney admitted. "He helped put the new album's intro song together. It's a great mood setter and very atmospheric."

Atmosphere and ambience are only one part of the Born of Osiris equation, however. The other consists of mind-scrapingly perilous guitar blasts emitted by McKinney and his fellow axman Tosin Abasi. Together they don't so much perform as dangerously flirt with carpal tunnel syndrome.

But how did the band manage to get the attention of small-but-celebrated California indie label Sumerian Records when everyone was still in high school? "They found us on MySpace randomly," McKinney said. "At the time, our lyrics were on the less serious side, because we were all sixteen years old. The lyrics were all jokes; we were all juniors in high school and had nothing to say. 'Are you guys serious?' the label asked us. 'If not, can you be?'"

So Born of Osiris got real serious. Once you endure a lethal track like "Elimination" from *A Higher Place*, with its crushing, off-kilter rhythms and elegant keyboard flourishes, you'll feel like the band's namesake, an Egyptian god of the underworld adrift on a slab of gold and directed straight at the sun.

After seeing the band live, Sumerian signed McKinney and crew. It was the final test, and Born of Osiris passed with an A-plus. *A Higher Place* cinches the band an advanced degree. Now if only Sumerian had administered a test on Punk and Metal Artists 101, a notion that causes the young guitarist to laugh again. "We have more to say now that we're no longer teenagers," he said. "But we probably still have more to learn about the history of music." ●

To share this story, go to ebx.ly/osiris

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CD REVIEWS

GRITTY FREAK-OUTS

Prosaic sludge metal, jug bands, and abstract jazz.

Baroness
Blue Record

These sludge-metal dudes from Savannah turned heads among the heavy music cognoscenti in 2007 with *Red Album*, whose cover depicted a couple of soulful-looking tribal types surrounded by heads of red flowers. Two years later, there's *Blue Record*, whose sleeve is dominated by fearsome images of waves and fish. Do not be surprised when 2010 brings us an *Ochre LP* and a picture of a lamp. That said, for a band of ultra-prosaic album titlers, Baroness is a big thinker when it comes to its music.

Here, as on *Red Album*, it keeps finding new ways to make old Black Sabbath tricks seem fresh, whether by giving the old war pigs rumble some post-hardcore dexterity ("A Horse Called Golgotha"), aping the misty mountain melody quotient ("Blackpowder Orchard"), or stretching toward the horizon with trippy laser-show guitar theatrics ("Bullhead's Lament," which on any other metal band's record would have been called "Butthead's Lament"). Come for the predictable; stay for the un-. (Relapse)

— *Mikael Wood*

Baroness plays Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Dec. 2, with Earthless and Lions Ago. 9 p.m. $12-$14. BottomoftheHill.com.

Maria Muldaur & Her Garden of Joy
Good Time Music for Hard Times

During a recording career that now spans 46 years, Maria Muldaur has applied her gritty contralto pipes with aplomb to blues, pop, early jazz, and even contemporary Christian music, yet she made her initial mark in jug bands, first with the Even Dozen, then Jim Kweskin's. Much like ex-husband and former Kweskin bandmate Geoff Muldaur has with his Texas Sheiks, she now returns to the jug band realm with *Good Time Music for Hard Times*, using a cast of players that includes David Grisman and John Sebastian (both Even Dozen alumni), Suzy Thompson (also a member of the Texas Sheiks), Taj Mahal, and Danny Caron.

The disc's upbeat spirit is especially well reflected in a couple original songs by Dan Hicks, but Maria reaches way back for most of the program, which includes numbers by the Mississippi Sheiks, Clifford Hayes and the Louisville Stompers, Hezekiah Jenkins, Martha Copeland, and Emmett Miller. Although most of the material is antique, Maria manages to make it relevant to the present, particularly in her adaptation of Jenkins' 1931 ragtime blues "The Panic Is On," in which she sings: *Them greedy politicians ruined everything, but now I'm here to sing/Obama is in the White House, saying "Yes we can"/I know we're gonna come up with a real good plan, and then them doggone hard times will be gone.* (Stony Plain)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

Maria Muldaur & Her Garden of Joy plays the Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Friday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50. FreightandSalvage.org.

Larry Ochs Sax & Drumming Core
Stone Shift

Tenor saxophonist and composer Larry Ochs is a founding member of Bay Area saxophone quartet ROVA (he's the "O"), virtually an institution in the frequently overlapping international scenes of avant-garde jazz, improvised music, and contemporary notated composition (the latter being what some folks these days refer to as "classical" music).

This time out, Ochs' Core, drummers Donald Robinson and Scott Amendola, is augmented by the married Japanese duo of Satoko Fujii (piano, synthesizer) and Natsuki Tamura (trumpet), both established leaders in the "out" music scenes of Tokyo and New York City. Together, the trio-plus-duo makes beautifully stormy, turbulent music together. Ochs' full-bodied tenor is out of the John Coltrane/Albert Ayler "free" tradition: forceful, passionate, frequently overblown (distorted), ecstatic, and talking in tongues. Fujii plays with a spiky, driven lyricism descended from McCoy Tyner and Don Pullen, and Tamura frequently employs extended techniques (above and beyond the "normal" range of the trumpet). The oddly titled "Abstraction Rising" features some bristling, melancholy free-bop (à la Andrew Hill), with Ochs nodding towards the blues (à la Sam Rivers) and Tamura paying subtle tribute to Freddie Hubbard. (While thought of primarily as a mainstream player, the late Hubbard played on some avant touchstones, such as Ornette Coleman's *Free Jazz* and Hill's *Point of Departure*.) The tour de force "Across From Over" finds the drummers laying down a marchlike groove over which Ochs (obliquely) struts, investing his skronk with a bit of New Orleans flair until Tamura enters, whose tones evoke Don Cherry, and Fujii makes like John Medeski on Moro before launching shards of synthesizer freak-out.

Occasionally, *Stone Shift* is a wee bit too abstract (the title track), but the exhilarating fire and riveting conviction throughout is hard to beat. (Rogue Art)

— *Mark Keresman*

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LOCAL LICKS

Dave Smallen
Everything Changes and Nothing Changes

If the name Dave Smallen doesn't ring a bell, try Street to Nowhere. That's the talented young East Bay singer-songwriter's former band, signed to Capitol Records in 2006 and later disbanded. His solo debut is more mature and subdued than STN's wild-eyed pop-punk, comparing favorably to the likes of Bright Eyes and the Counting Crows. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on November 27. 9:30 p.m. $12.

Wave Array
Cheapjack Moon

Like a more psychedelic Spoon or a more shambolic Pinback, Wave Array plays slightly to the left of contemporary indie-rock standards. The East Bay band's debut politely ignores prevailing trends for slower tempos and a hazier aesthetic. It's a fine line between losing your head in the clouds and wandering without focus, but Wave Array mostly gets it right. (self-released)

At the Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on November 28. 9 p.m. $7.

Scene of Action
20 Minute Hourglass EP

Fans of mainstream rock should be impressed with San Francisco indie band Scene of Action's latest offering. From instrumentation to production, the trio captures perfectly the dark, dreamy, and yearning style that has dominated modern rock radio for the last five or so years — and these six songs would feel quite at home on an arena rock stage. (PopSmear Records)

At the Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell St., San Francisco) on November 28. 8 p.m., $10.

Mass Fiction
Genre

Like fellow local Josh Fix, San Francisco quintet Mass Fiction revives piano-based, Queen-inspired power-pop for a new generation. The difference is where they go with it: Mass Fiction's infusion of rough-edged alternative rock is more creative and original, yet less persuasive than Fix's authentic swagger. (The Nothing Room)

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SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Rock & Pop

Meat Is Murder Smiths Tribute featuring The Charming Band, 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $6, under 21 $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Babylon Presents Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $26

FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Blues [illegible] Band [illegible], 8 pm, $10
Annie McClure's Garden of Joy Jug Band Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $19.50-$18.50
Miguel Anciano and the Zydeco Band plus Zydeco dance lesson at 8:15 p.m., Eagles Hall, 8 pm, $15
Whiskey Brown Saddle Rack, 9 pm, $5

Classical & Opera

Flamenco Fridays featuring Travel Torres & Eugenio on Cajon, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Alt Tal Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, $8
Band / 2 Jupiter, 8 pm, free
Sally Park Trio Thanksgiving celebration, Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $12
A Special Evening with Joe Sample & Lalah Hathaway Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $40

Rock & Pop

Igor & the Red Elvises Shattuck Down Low, 8 pm, $15
[illegible] Kids' show, Paramount Theatre, 11 am, $25-$35
Lotus [illegible] [illegible] Saloon, 9 pm, free
The Lovemakers w/ the Silversmiths, [illegible], Uptown, 9 pm, $15
A Post-Thanksgiving Gathering w/ [illegible], Rattlesnakes, & the Professor plus a canned-food drive, Stairs on Telegraph, 8:30 pm, $10
Ska Night featuring [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Trio Garufa w/ plus Argentine tango lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

C.C. Band [illegible] 8 & 10 pm, $20
Savoy Family Cajun Band Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20
Turkey Trot 2009 featuring the Pine Box Boys, Trainwreck Riders, the [illegible], & the Mighty Crows, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12-$15

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The [illegible] and Valley Ministry, 8:15 pm, $15-$18

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe Presents [illegible] w/ Robert Walter's 20th Congress, The Independent, 8 pm, $25
Tuck & Patti Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $15-$22 and matinee $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] Room, 7:30 pm, $12-$18
[illegible] w/ the [illegible], [illegible], Hut, 8:30 pm, $12
Baby V w/ Trevor Garrod, [illegible] Layton, Red Devil Lounge, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Corpse, Chimaira, Unearth, Whitechapel, [illegible], Hate Eternal & [illegible], The [illegible], 3 pm, $20-$30
[illegible] w/ Danny James & Pitts, Ferocious Few, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 pm, $7
Norma Jean w/ [illegible] the Band, the Chariot, & [illegible] Get All the Girls, Slim's, 7:30 pm, $15-$17
Primus w/ [illegible], the [illegible] Sessions, 8 pm, $25-$27

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & the Mayhem The Fillmore, 9 pm, $20

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys w/ and [illegible] the 8 Stars, Leopold, 9 pm, $12
Bobby McDowell Band Brewer Rock, 7:15 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Thick Morning, Patrick Sauber & Andrew Conklin, Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50
Whiskey Band Brewer Rock, 10 pm, $6

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Armando's, 8 pm, $[illegible]
Fred Randolph Jazz Group Ashkenaz Pub, 8:30 pm-12:30 am, $3
Kenny Washington & [illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14
Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers plus East Coast swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $15 students $12
Loquat Band [illegible], 8:30 pm, free
A Special Evening with Joe Sample & Lalah Hathaway Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $40
[illegible] Trio Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Annie Sessions Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $6
[illegible] w/ Fighting the Villain, the [illegible], Stairs on Telegraph, 8:30 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Blues, guest, Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $7

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

California Honey Drops Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20
[illegible] at the Purple Sage Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $25-$60
[illegible] Mo' Spot Cafe, 8 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The [illegible] [illegible] Valley Ministry, 8:15 pm, $15-$18

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures as whole Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe Presents [illegible] w/ Robert Walter's 20th Congress, The Independent, 8 pm, $25
Tuck & Patti Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $15-$22 and matinee $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] hosted by [illegible], 10 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ Love Songs, [illegible], Sub/Mission Gallery, 8 pm, $5
[illegible]'s Thanksgiving Extravaganza & [illegible] featuring the [illegible] Lake Franks, the Federalists, & [illegible], 9 pm, $10
Jimmy 2 Shoes w/ [illegible], DNA, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ Leopold & the Fellow, Siddhartha, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $7
Loquat w/ the Corts, [illegible], Devil Lounge, 9 pm, $10-$12
SF All-Ages [illegible] featuring [illegible], & Crimewave, [illegible], 8 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ Professor Space [illegible], & Holy Gold, Annie's Social Club, 9 pm, $6
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Radio Band, the [illegible], 10 pm, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], The Fillmore, 9 pm, $35
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Dynamite, Zapp & [illegible], 10 pm, $5
Zion I [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 11:59 pm, $20-$25

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Family Square Dance w/ Pork Pies, caller Evie Ladin, Ashkenaz, 3-4:30 pm, $6, kids $4
[illegible] holiday show featuring Irish music, [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$21.50
Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions Group hosts a different blues band every week, [illegible] Restaurant, 5 pm, free
McCabe and Mrs. Miller w/ [illegible], Uptown, 8 pm, $[illegible]
The Starry Irish Session listen to or play Irish music w/ and Shay Black, Starry Plough, 8:15 pm, sliding scale

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] & Bay Area Composers Big Band Anna's Jazz Island, 2 pm, $12
[illegible] Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible] Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $10
A Special Evening with Joe Sample & Lalah Hathaway Yoshi's, 7 & 9 pm, $40
Sunday Kings & Jam Anna's Jazz Island, 9 pm, $5
Terrence Brewer Trio [illegible], 6:30-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Blind w/ Commune, Orchestra of Antlers, Starry Plough, 8:30 pm, $7
[illegible] Orchestra [illegible] Pavilion, 3 & 7:30 pm, $30.50-$55.50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Domingos do Brewer Afro-Cuban rumba jam session & dance party, Cafe Valparaiso, 2:30-5:30 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], 10 am-1 pm, free
Mahealani Uchiyama Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10

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SUN 9pm Free	FRESH STEPS SPECIAL EDITION RESIDENT DJ AEBLOKE & LIVE HIP HOP PERFORMANCES ft. DuDet, Slare Shaun, Isis Gerlais
MON 9pm Free	THREE DAY WEEKEND DJ'S C MOSES & MOROCCO SLIM vinyl hip hop & soul classics
TUES 10pm Free	SOUL FYAH DJ SEBO & KOOL KYLE reggae, dancehall, lovers-rock & remixes

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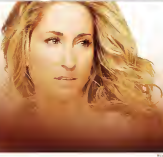

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PICKS

Del The Funkee Homosapien

The last few years marked a spotty period for **Del tha Funkee Homosapien**. After the success of *Deltron 3030* and "Clint Eastwood" — his hit single with the Gorillaz — Del found himself battling Legionnaires disease, bad breakup drama, writer's block, and a rather tepid Def Jux debut. But this year he made a surprising comeback with *Parallel Uni-verses*, a thoroughly excellent collaboration with Jersey rapper Tame One. The album blends fully orchestrated beats with arcane slang words and well-written rap narratives. In an autobiographical track called "Before This," Del brags offhandedly about being placed in the Gifted and Talented program at his elementary school (he derides it, for reasons unexplained). Obviously a gifted thinker and writer, he might have found success in academia — had he not parlayed those skills into hip-hop. Del tha Funkee Homosapien performs on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at the **Great American Music Hall** (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) with Bukue One, Serendipity Project, and Hopie Spitshard. 9 p.m. $19-$20. MusicHallSF.com — *Rachel Swan*

Lalah Hathaway

Born into an R&B dynasty, **Lalah Hathaway** ultimately secured notoriety in her own right. Her deep, expressive, powerhouse alto recalls that of father Donny, but Lalah also has a soft side. *She* got her break in the new jack swing era, recording a spate of hits with clunky synthesizers, programmed drums, and heartbreak lyrics. As she got older, though, her tastes got a lot more sophisticated. In 1999, Lalah hooked up with jazz keyboardist **Joe Sample** to record an album of crystalline ballads. The two of them will reconvene this week at **Oakland Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero West) Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28, at 8 & 10 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 29, at 7 & 9 p.m. $40. Yoshis.com — *R.S.*

Del.

Trextion.

Maria Muldaur

Maria Muldaur got her start singing with the Even Dozen Jug Band in Greenwich Village and became a national presence in the Jim Kweskin Jug Band with her then-husband Geoff Muldaur. Last year she met Kit Stovepipe, leader of Washington state's Crow Quill Night Owls, a band with an interest in all retro American music with a heavy concentration on the jug-band vibe. Muldaur renamed them the Garden of *Joy Jug Band* and asked them to back her up on her recent album *Maria Muldaur & Her Garden of Joy*, a celebration of her jug-band roots. Stovepipe and his gang of multi-instrumental musical acrobats will take us back to the days of yesteryear with Muldaur supplying her familiar low-key sensual growl. Maria Muldaur and the Garden of *Joy Jug Band* play on Friday, Nov. 27, at the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m. $18.50, $20.50. TheFreight.org — *j. poet*

New Esterhazy String Quartet

Dedicated to the quartets of Haydn, the Bay Area's **New Esterhazy String Quartet** is set for their special installment of Classical at the Freight. Introduced by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra's Ben Simon, and playing some of their favorites from Haydn's output of more than sixty quartets, the Esterhazy's authentic instrument players should sound splendid in the acoustics of the new Freight. On Monday, Nov. 30, at the **Freight & Salvage Coffee House** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50. TheFreight.org or 510-644-2020. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Toots & the Maytals

Among the most prolific artists to emerge from Jamaica, **Toots Hibbert** may be the most well-respected artist you've never heard having been covered by the likes of Sublime, the Clash, Radiohead, the Roots, Willie Nelson, and the Specials. The reggae scene is fortunate enough to have vibrant legends such as Hibbert (who is oftentimes credited with coining the term reggae in his 1968 song, "Do the Reggay") and Burning Spear still in the touring and recording realm despite not getting nearly a quarter of the spotlight that the late Bob Marley continues to receive. Still going strong with the Maytals, Hibbert showcased his love of soul music via 2007's excellent *Light Your Light*, a collection that includes covers of heroes Otis Redding and Ray Charles along with the Motown ska medley "*Tribute to Cosson/*Giant of Nevermore". Hibbert will be doing the reggae on Friday, Nov. 27, at **The Fillmore** (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco). 9 p.m. $36. TheFillmore.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Trextion

Quality indie rock never feels dated, especially when it's harnessed by driving guitars, memorable melodies, impassioned vocals, and literate lyrics. Johannes Umur Armstrout has been carrying that torch for a decade now with his Oakland band **Trextion**. Remarkably undiminished, the band's output has been consistently solid over the years, carried by Armstrout's unique and unmistakable voice. The lineup — having featured a who's-who of long-time players in the Bay Area music scene — now includes drummer Dan Adrian, guitarist Jeremy Hamilton, and bassist Ian Miller. Life stalled the band's progress for a while, but Armstrout says they're currently working on a new full-length album for release by summer. In the meantime, catch them when they play **Kimo's** (1351 Polk St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Dec. 6, with Washington state's **Police Teeth** and fellow Oaklanders **Generalissimo**. 9 p.m., $6. KimosBarSF.com — *Kathleen Wentz*

C&C

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jordan Spear w/ Light Machine, Evening Pass, Hotel Utah, 8 pm. $8

Rags Harvey and Thunder Blue blues jam, Ship's Tavern, 6:30 pm, free

The Sandwitches w/ *Pale Hearse*, The Spot Cafe, 8 pm, $5

Kelmis Plough and Stars, 9 pm, free

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Giuseppe Verdi's Otello, War Memorial Opera House, 2 pm, $15-$250

[illegible] on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 am-2 pm, $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel brunch w/ Fuque Perfect & rotating guests, 1307 [illegible], 11 am & 1 pm, $30 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$77

[illegible] Trio The Mystic, 7-10:30 pm, free

Tuck & Patti Yoshi's San Francisco, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$32, kids' dividend $5

[illegible] featuring Andrew Speight, [illegible], @ [illegible] Saloon, 4:30-6:30 pm, $8

Rock & Pop

Japandroids w/ [illegible], the Theater Party [illegible], 7 pm, $10-$12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Theater, [illegible], 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $18

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ Sam Bradley, Elizabeth & the Catapult, Great American Music Hall, 7:30 pm, $13

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Georges Lammam Ensemble music and dance from the Middle East, [illegible], 8 pm, $10

Salsa Sundays w/ rotating live bands, salsa dance lesson, 8 pm, $ 5

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam Baja Taqueria, 8-10 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe [illegible], 2-5 pm, free

Classical & Opera

New Saturday String Theater performing the music of Haydn, Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Project Yoshi's, 8 pm, $16

[illegible] the Saturday w/ [illegible] Revue, Uptown, 8 pm, $6

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Unplugged [illegible] Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Ensemble, [illegible] Ensemble, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ Kenny Washington, Jazz at Pearl's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$15

Jazz Mondays [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish Band, 8 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Warfield, 7 pm, $34-$45.50

The Vic Chesnutt Band featuring Guy Picciotto & members of Thee Silver Mt. Zion, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, & [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $16-$18

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ Language Arts Crew, [illegible] Theater, 8 pm, $7

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $17-$30

TUESDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & the Berkeley Cajun All Stars plus Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8

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[illegible] 2509 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-5586.

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First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland 510-444-3555

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland TheFoxOakland.com

[illegible] 171 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510 783 8201

Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley 510-548-1761.

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave), Berkeley 510-642-9988

[illegible] 1430 Webster St., Alameda 510-865-2225

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley 510-845-5373

[illegible] Community Church of the East Bay 1411 Walnut St. Berkeley 510-848-0237

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St. Alameda 510-865-2385

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-8277

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La Taza de Cafe 3909 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-658-2373

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland 510-835-4793

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland 510-893-2484

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[illegible] 2421 Lincoln Ave Alameda, 510 523-1380

[illegible] Lounge 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-472-1980

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-848-5107

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. Berkeley 510-845-6830.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-444-6174

[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-553-8800

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-451-8100

[illegible] 3411 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland, 510-530-2301

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C&C

4 p.m. Ashkenaz. 4:30 pm, $18

Country Western Dance Night w/ [illegible] Vinnie's Bar & Grill. 7:30-11 pm, free

[illegible] Freight & Salvage. 4 pm, $22.50-$23.50

[illegible] Pete's Backboard. 7:30-9 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] Quartet [illegible] Christmas carols. Frank Ogawa Plaza. 11:30 am-1:30 pm, free

[illegible] Chorus community [illegible] world music repertoire, open to all ages and experience levels. For information, call [illegible] (510) 547-5000. Lake Merritt [illegible] Methodist [illegible]. 7:30 pm, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] Caffe [illegible]. 5-9 pm, free

Eddie Pasternak and w/ [illegible] Cafe Rouge. 6:30 pm, free

[illegible] Cuckoo's Nest. 7-8 pm, free

[illegible] Tuesdays featuring students and the Berkeley music school, Jupiter. 8 pm, free

[illegible] Holiday [illegible] Party w/ [illegible] Mike Lipskin, the Young Santa Claus, & more. Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm, $55

SAN FRANCISCO

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] w/ [illegible] City Cafe du Nord. 8:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Tuesdays Coda. 4 pm, $7

[illegible] featuring Michael Zilber, Peter Horvath, John Shifflett, & [illegible] Lewis. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm, $18-$25

Open Jazz Jam w/ [illegible] Trio Caffe Contadina. 7:30-11:30 pm, free

[illegible] Orchestra Bruno's. 9 pm, $5

The Robert [illegible] The 23, 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] Herb Club. 9:30 pm, $10

Tuesday Night Jump! [illegible] with jazz plus swing dance lessons. [illegible] 8 pm, $7-$12

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ Ruth and Salvage Company. The Fillmore. 8 pm, $[illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Josh [illegible]. 4 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill. 9 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Safety Scissors, & [illegible] 8 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm, $18-$28; $5 students

[illegible] Freight & Salvage. 4 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Zydeco! plus [illegible] at 7:30 p.m., Ashkenaz. 4:30 pm, $13

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] The Island. 9 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Paramount Theatre. 4 pm, TBA

[illegible] The New Parish. 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] holiday performance. Oakland City Center. 12-1 pm, free

[illegible] plus [illegible] Shattuck [illegible]. 9:30 pm, $10, $5 for students

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 4 The [illegible], open, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 pm, $18-$22

[illegible] Cafe du Nord. 9:30 pm, $15-$17

[illegible] [illegible] 4 pm, $12

Classical & Opera

Ji Young Yang soprano, w/ [illegible] performing [illegible] Handel, Mozart, & [illegible]. 6:30 pm, $20

San Francisco Opera performing Giuseppe Verdi's Otello. War Memorial Opera House. 7:30 pm, $25-$310

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Mafia Presents: [illegible] Orchestra Yoshi's San Francisco. 10:30 pm, $10-$14

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill. 9 pm, $12-$14

The [illegible] w/ Ruth and Salvage Company. The Fillmore. 8 pm, $[illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 8:30 pm, $25-$28

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Red Devil Lounge. 4 pm, $5-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Farewell [illegible] Elbo Room. 9 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ the [illegible] My The Earthquake. Rickshaw Stop. 8 pm, $10-$12

[illegible] featuring [illegible] Katie [illegible] Andy [illegible] Tyler James, & [illegible] The Independent. 8 pm, $13-$15

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

CLUB DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Club [illegible] St. 415-440-0222
330 [illegible] 330 [illegible] St. 415-541-9574
Amnesia 853 Valencia St. 415-970-0012
[illegible] 1856 Haight St. 415-[illegible]
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-974-1585
Audium 1616 Bush St. 415-771-1616
Azul Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-362-9750
[illegible] Restaurant and Wine Bar 448 Brannan St. 415-[illegible]
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] 2323 Mission St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1875 [illegible] Ave, 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 401 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-621-4455
Bruno's 2389 Mission St. 415-643-5200
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 609 Vallejo St. 415-[illegible]
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St. 415-431-3332
[illegible] Cocktails 512 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 285 9th St., 415-[illegible]
Club Fugazi 678 Green St. 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
[illegible] [illegible] Mission St. 415-[illegible]
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000
[illegible] 2[illegible] Leavenworth St. 415-[illegible]
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St. 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El [illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-[illegible]
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St. 415-552-7788
[illegible] Lounge 1806 Geary St., 415-[illegible]
The EndUp 401 6th St. 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
[illegible] [illegible] 4th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1[illegible] Van Ness Ave. 415-[illegible]
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St. 415-771-1421
Ireland's 32 Bar & Hall 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
[illegible] 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
Levende Lounge 1710 Mission St. 415-864-5585
[illegible] Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St. 415-625-8880
[illegible] [illegible] Powell St. [illegible]
[illegible] 1032 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1000 Great Highway 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1100 Powell St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 1695 Polk St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 20th St. 415-[illegible]
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St. 415-861-2011
[illegible] 435 Clement St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 222 Mason St.
[illegible] Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275
[illegible] 453 Cortland Ave 415-[illegible]
Skylark 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294
Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8186
[illegible] [illegible] 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Gallery 2[illegible] St. 415-[illegible]
Supperclub 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900
Swig The 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St. 415-[illegible]
Top of the [illegible] Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-[illegible]
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 443 Broadway St. 415-[illegible]
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722
[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge [illegible] Sutter St. 415-[illegible]
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 26

EAST BAY

[illegible]

More Listings Online
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SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

TUESDAY 1

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 2

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

PICK

Simian Mobile Disco

Read [illegible] Thanksgiving deposits inside the [illegible] at a **Simian Mobile Disco** party on Friday, Nov. 27, at **Mezzanine** (444 Jessie St., San Francisco). The seasonal slowdown around the holidays generally offers a much needed break for card-carrying members of the too-much-fun club, but die-hards can persevere through the slump with some of the best hipster electro-dance around. UK duo James Ford (Arctic Monkeys, Peaches, and Klaxons) and Jas Shaw started the noisy [illegible] blipped-out side project in 2005 and released hit *Attack Decay Sustain* [illegible] *Temporary Pleasure* doubled down on the beats in May with help from Gossip's Beth Ditto, Alexis Taylor of Hot Chip, and [illegible] Esoteric disco, Germanic minimalism, and trashy funk will unite some and alienate the rest, guaranteed. With JDH & Dave P and the Tenderlions. [illegible] 9 p.m., $22.50. Mezzanine.com — *David Downs*

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[illegible]
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Happy Thanksgiving
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Blitzenhauer
The Return of Saturday Nortons
Open Mic w/ Jesse the Bartender Ventura
Graham Isaacson
[illegible] B St., Hayward
[illegible]

La Peña
[illegible] Shattuck Ave. Berkeley [illegible]
CINE MAS FILM FEST
Havana [illegible]
Final Image (Chile)
SAT & SUN, NOV 28 & 29
ART & CRAFTS FAIR
15th Womyn of Color Arts & Craft
THE REBIRTH
[illegible]
BARBARA PAZ
Chilean Singer at the Cafe Lucey
DEC 2 & 3
BODY MUSIC FEST
[illegible]
[illegible] WWW.LAPENA.ORG

CLUB 21

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THURSDAY
pressure drop
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the spanish channel 10pm
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10pm
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SAVAGE LOVE

MOSTLY STRAIGHT (OR GAY)

Sex exceptions with friends and strangers, and the consequences

By Dan Savage

I am a 29-year-old single straight man. Over the past year, I have become very close friends with a gay man close to my age. We have a blast hanging out, and I value our friendship. Four months ago, he told me that he had developed romantic feelings for me and said he needed a little space to save our friendship. For a couple of months, we saw each other only with mutual friends. Then we started hanging out again. It's been great, and he seems very comfortable with me again. The thing is, I am now experiencing a sexual attraction to him. I have never been with a man and I am very attracted to women, but it doesn't bother me that I suddenly feel this way.

I have been thinking about asking him if he wants to have a sexual experience with me. I think he would go for it. A long-term romantic relationship with him does not interest me, but I do love him as a friend and don't want to risk losing that. Is it possible this would be just a one-time thing that brings us closer as friends, or is it more likely to ruin our friendship? He is the only guy I have ever been attracted to, and I want to have this experience.

Straight Except For One Guy

While you're open to having a gay experience with your friend, SEFOG, he would probably prefer to have a gay relationship with someone. The fact that he can't "have you" — i.e., you're never gonna gay marry him — may make him reluctant to fuck your ass. Having sex with you could obviously reignite feelings he made an effort to squash to "save the friendship" — duh — and he may dread the feelings of jealousy and inadequacy that could swamp him when the inevitable happens and you wind up in a LTR with a woman.

All that said, SEFOG, I'm going to share a little secret with you about gay men: We're men, real men, just like straight men. We're good at having sex without getting emotionally attached — some of us are a little too good at it — and a single gay man, like a single straight man, rarely passes up a chance to get with someone he's attracted to, even if he wants more than that person can give. About the only thing that gay men are better at than straight men — besides deep-throating — is maintaining friendships with exes, one-night stands, friends-with-benefits, fuck buddies, et al.

Lob your balls into your friend's court, SEFOG, and see what he says. You were able to remain friends after he confessed his attraction to you, so I don't see why you won't be able to remain friends after you confess your attraction to him.

I'm a woman with an extremely gorgeous, brilliant, openly (mostly) gay friend who I've been having sex with infrequently but regularly over the last six months. I know why I'm doing it: I enjoy his company, he's hot, the sex is incredible. But I'm not sure why he's having sex with me, a straight girl! The most I could get out of him is that he thinks I have a "masculine sexuality." I'd like to have a clearer understanding of where our friendship/sexual relationship stands. I am a person who likes to talk about everything, and he is not.

Confused Over Male Eroticism

I would hazard a guess that your (mostly) gay friend is doing this — doing you — for the same reasons you're doing him: He enjoys your company, you're hot, and the sex is great. As for where you stand, COME, well, that depends on what you want. Do you want hot sex with a hot guy every once in a while? Then you're in good standing. Do you want a relationship? Then you're deluding yourself. Very few gay-identified men are secretly closeted straight guys, COME. When a bisexual guy identifies as gay, it's typically because he's not romantically attracted to women. He can fuck women, but he doesn't fall in love with women. Most bisexual guys are the opposite of your (mostly) gay friend, i.e., they can fuck men but they don't fall in love with men, which is why most bi guys identify as (mostly) straight.

I'm a 23-year-old lesbian who's been in a relationship with a bisexual woman. She's always had a fantasy about guy-girl-girl threeways, so about five or so months ago, we decided to invite her best friend, "Roger," into bed with us. We've both been pretty happy with the arrangement. At the start, I refused to have sex with him. But about two months ago, I decided I wanted to try it, never having had sex with a guy myself. I couldn't get into it, so we stopped after two minutes. Since then, I've missed two periods and done four home pregnancy tests — all positive.

How the hell am I going to break the news to my girlfriend? We used condoms! I'd like to keep the baby and raise it with my girlfriend, but we have been living with each other for only a year. And how do I break it to Roger, if at all?

Gay Baby Mama Drama

How do you break the news to your girlfriend? The same way you break it to Roger: without further delay. Keeping the baby is your decision and your choice, GBMD, but it's a decision you have to make in consultation with your girlfriend if you're counting on her to raise this baby with you. And as your ultimate choice will have enormous potential consequences for Roger, both emotional and financial, he needed to be informed of your condition three pregnancy tests ago.

Your girlfriend may not be ready for the kind of commitment that coparenting represents. Roger may be nontraditional in the whole "three-ways-with-hot-lesbians" sense but traditional in the wants-to-be-the-father-of-his-child sense. You need their input as you make this choice, GBMD. And you have choices in addition to abortion or keeping the baby. There's also open adoption. In an open adoption, you pick the family the child is placed with, and you and Roger can have ongoing contact with the child after adoption. You can learn more about open adoption at OpenAdopt.org.

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage
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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG09473808
Alameda County Superior Court Rene C. Davidson Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ASHLEIGH ADELE REIMER, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: ASHLEIGH ADELE REIMER to Proposed Name: ASHLEIGH ADELE FRIEND. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING JANUARY 15, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at 201 13th Street Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: September 14, 2009 Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge Judge of the Superior Court
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 430478
The following individual is doing business as **Eden Canyon Vineyards** Street Address: 1500 Park Ave. #222 Emeryville, CA 94608; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Eden Canyon, Inc. 1500 Park Ave. #222 Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/1/99. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/13/2009.
Eden Canyon Vineyards
11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 430618
The following individual is doing business as **Equine Balanced Veterinary Care** Street Address: 3317 D [illegible] Meadows St. Dublin, CA 94568; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2235 is hereby registered by the following owner: Michelle [illegible], 3317 D [illegible] Meadows St. Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/20/2009.
Equine Balanced Veterinary Care
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 430736
The following individual is doing business as **Los Bocaditos**, Street Address: 4421 Calaveras St. #122 Oakland, CA 94601; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 4421 [illegible] St. #122 Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/2[illegible]/2009.
Los Bocaditos
11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 431143
The following individual is doing business as **Daylight Cleaning**, Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94606; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 1809 [illegible] #507 Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2009.
Daylight Cleaning
11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 431462
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2009.
[illegible]
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 431469
The following individual is doing business as **Rah Sool West of Alameda**, Street Address: 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/12/2009.
Rah Sool of Alameda
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG09478000
Alameda County Superior Court Rene C. Davidson Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner COLETTE FERN REITNER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: COLETTE FERN REITNER to Proposed Name: COLETTE DE SAGARDI REITNER. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING DECEMBER 18, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31 at 201 13th Street Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: August 25, 2009 Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge Judge of the Superior Court
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Redmond Home Rentals**, Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94607; Mailing Address: 155 Sansome St Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94104, is hereby registered by the following owner: Pucaash, LLC, 155 Sansome St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94104. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/[illegible]/2009.
Redmond Home Rentals
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following business is doing business as **[illegible] Realty**, Street Address: 1431 62nd Street Suite C, Emeryville, CA 94608; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Lending Inc. 1431 62nd Street Suite C, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/4/2009.
[illegible] Realty
11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 2009

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG09480393
Alameda County Superior Court Rene C. Davidson Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner FRANKLIN HALL JR. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: FRANKLIN HALL to Proposed Name: MALANA ELLE BRUTTE DE SOLEIL. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING DECEMBER 4, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at 201 13th Street Oakland CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: September 10, 2009 Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge Judge of the Superior Court
11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Sincere [illegible]** Street Address: 800 #2nd Ave. Oakland, CA 94601; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Portfolio Productions, Inc., [illegible] 43rd Ave. Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/1991. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/24/2009.
[illegible]
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 431450
The following individual is doing business as **Rah Sool 2009** Street Address: 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 1/14 San [illegible] Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/12/2009.
Rah Sool West
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 430834
The following individual is doing business as **Family 2009 Care Taxes and Payroll** Street Address: 34570 Cabrillo Dr. Fremont, CA 94555; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Hasan S. [illegible], 34570 Cabrillo Dr. Fremont, CA 94555. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/26/2009.
Family Child Care Taxes and Payroll
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 431461
The following business is doing business as **Rah Sool Way of Alameda** Street Address: 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2189 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/12/2009.
Rah Sool Way of Alameda
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 428377-03
The following individual is doing business as **Happy Dog 2009 & Happy Dog**, Street Address: 2348 Powell St. [illegible] Emeryville, CA 94608; Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: AuDog Ireland [illegible], LLC, 2348 Powell St. Unit 117 Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/01/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2009.
Happy Dog West & Happy Dog
11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/2009

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Karybbas
[illegible]
Color: Black
Sex: Male, neutered
Age: 3 1/2 years old
[illegible] had a loving home until his owner lost. He ended up on the street and was severely injured. The head trauma has left him with impaired eye sight. He needs a safe, quiet home to resume his life [illegible]
Berkeley - East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Kai
Breed: Russian Blue [illegible]
Color: Blue/Gr[illegible]
Sex: Male, neutered
Age: 8 years old
[illegible]
Berkeley - East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.berkeleyhumane.org

Dusty
This 55 pound, 8 year old Plume Hound still has a lot of spring in her step. [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
2700 Hesperian Bl., Oakland
510-569-0702
www.eastbayspca.org

Puffin
Puffin is a fluffy 8 year [illegible] of love who would love [illegible] a calm, comfortable home. [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
2007 Hesperian Bl., Oakland
510-569-0702
www.eastbayspca.org

SUMMONS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: CHIA HSIN HSU

SUMMONS
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
Chia Hsin Hsu and Does 1-20 inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
Alfonso DaSilva

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. CASE NUMBER: RG09451749

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612; Rene C. Davidson Courthouse

The name, address, and Telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
Charles F. Bourdon (84732)
Law Offices of Charles F. Bourdon
179 11th Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone No. 415-865-5010 Fax No. 415-865-0376

DAMAGES
(Declaratory Relief and Conversion)
To: Chia Hsin Hsu
Plaintiff: Alfonso DaSilva
seeks damages in the above-entitled action as follows:
Plaintiff is entitled to damages in the amount of $[illegible]

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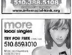

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